FRIDAY
January 9, 2026

BENGALURU
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 57 • No. 8

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RULING RESERVED

SC weighs RS Chair role in Justice Varma case

NEWS » PAGE 14

PEOPLE'S CONSERVATIONIST

Madhav Gadgil, ecologist with a niche vision, dies

NEWS » PAGE 16

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

India likely to scrap curbs on China firms

BUSINESS » PAGE 17

PARLEY

Is the 10-minute delivery model necessary?

The need for labour welfare in gig economy

OPINION » PAGE 13

DOMINANT DISPLAY

Australia wins fifth Test, bags series 4-1

SPORT » PAGE 19

Mamata, ED lock horns over search at consultancy firm

West Bengal Chief Minister says the Central agency took away crucial data related to her party's strategy document, candidate lists; ED accuses her of removing key evidence during the raid

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Thursday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of removing evidence from two locations during a raid against the political consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) in Kolkata.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson, who visited the I-PAC office and the residence of its co-founder Pratik Jain during the raid, said the search was "politically motivated to steal party data", adding that crucial information relating to the party's strategy documents and candidate lists was taken away by the Central agency.

Data tussle: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at I-PAC co-founder Pratik Jain's residence in Kolkata on Thursday. PTI

"They [Bharatiya Janata Party] are great killers of democracy. How can they do it? What will happen if we reciprocate this ED search by raiding BJP party offices in Bengal?" Ms. Banerjee told media persons.

Ms. Banerjee reached Mr. Jain's south Kolkata residence at about 12.44 p.m. and later visited the I-PAC office in the city's Salt Lake area, leaving it at about 4.20 p.m. When she came out of the residence, she was seen with a file which she was not carrying when she entered.

In a statement, the ED said that the Chief Minister and her aides had "forcibly removed physical documents and electronic evidences".

"Ms. Banerjee took away key evidence including physical documents and electronic devices. The CM's convoy then proceeded to I-PAC's office premises, from where Ms. Banerjee, her aides, and the State police personnel forcibly removed physical documents and electronic evidences," the ED statement said.

The agency claimed that the Chief Minister's actions "have resulted in obstruction in ongoing investigation and proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
CM TO HIT THE STREETS
» PAGE 15

UN body report sets India's 2025-26 growth at 7.2%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Centre estimated the economy to grow at 7.4% in financial year 2025-26, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs said consumption and public investment can "largely offset" the impact of tariffs imposed by the U.S. and enable India to grow by 7.2% this fiscal.

However, the report warned that continuing tariffs could weigh on the economy as 18% of Indian exports are U.S.-bound. It said "tax reforms and monetary easing should provide additional near-term support", adding that strong demand from other markets will limit the tariff impact. The report predicted India's growth to be 7.4% in calendar year 2025. On a fiscal year basis, it estimated India to grow at 6.6% and 6.8% in 2026-27 and 2027-28, respectively.

"In India, growth is estimated at 7.4% for 2025 and forecast at 6.6% for 2026 and 6.7% for 2027, supported by resilient consumption and strong public investment, which should largely offset the adverse impact of higher U.S. tariffs," the report said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Trump clears Bill to slap up to 500% tariff on buying Russian oil

Tariff target

The Bill gives the U.S. President discretion to choose tariff figures over and above the 25% penalty tariffs already imposed on India

- The Bill, introduced in the Senate in April 2025, has enough co-sponsors from Republican and Democratic parties to suggest a smooth passage once brought to vote
- 84 co-sponsors in Senate out of a total of 100 members
- 151 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives

"They [India] must stop buying Russian oil... The President has only imposed a 25% tariff [thus far]"
SERGIO GOR
U.S. Ambassador-designate

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Doubling down on his pressure on India to stop importing oil from Russia, U.S. President Donald Trump has 'greenlit' legislation that will empower him to levy up to 500% in tariffs on countries that buy oil or uranium from Russia, according to senior Senator Lindsey Graham.

Mr. Graham, a close associate of Mr. Trump, said the U.S. President on Wednesday "greenlit" the Russia Sanctions Bill, which could be voted in Congress "as early as next week". "This Bill would give President Trump tremendous leverage against countries like China, India, and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying the cheap Russian oil that provides the financing for [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's bloodbath against Ukraine," Mr. Graham said.

The bipartisan Bill introduced in the Senate in April 2025 has thus far got 84 co-sponsors in the Senate (out of 100 members), and 151 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, suggesting it will be passed smoothly once brought to a vote. The move came ahead of the arrival of U.S. Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor to New Delhi, who had said that ensuring India ends its import of Russian oil is a "top priority".

Mr. Gor, who was sworn in to the position months ago will begin his tenure as Ambassador to India and "Special Envoy to South and Central Asia" on Monday, and is expected to outline his mission with a public statement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Centre to launch scheme to aid road mishap victims

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to launch a nationwide cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims, offering coverage of up to ₹1.5 lakh and a cash award for Good Samaritans who rush victims to hospitals.

The scheme will cover road accidents anywhere in the country, and not just on national highways, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said during a two-day conference of Transport Ministers, Secretaries and Commissioners of all States and Union Territories here.

Mr. Gadkari cited an AIIMS study and said road fatalities could be reduced by 30% if there was timely medical intervention.

The medical coverage would be under the third party insurance bought at the time of a car purchase, and where a vehicle was not insured, the government would fund the medical expenses under the Road Safety Fund.

A person who brings a victim to the hospital, who the government is calling "*rahavir*", would be given a cash award of ₹25,000. This could not be claimed by more than one individual, Mr. Gadkari said.

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NEARBY

State to legally challenge repeal of MGNREGA

BENGALURU
The State Cabinet has decided to seek legal remedy to challenge the repeal of the MGNREGA and enactment of VB G RAM G, but also go to "people's court". » PAGE 10

Properties with B-Khata in ULBs to get relief

BENGALURU
Owners of the B-Khata properties in urban areas of the State can now heave a sigh of relief as the State Cabinet has decided to provide A-Khata status to their properties. About 10 lakh properties are estimated to get these benefits. » PAGE 10

BDA takes up demolition without notice

BENGALURU
The BDA on Thursday razed over 13 houses without any prior notice in Ashwath Nagar near Thanisandra. » PAGE 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

The Ashes aftermath — England's Test future at the crossroads

The line between carefree and careless often blurred, but not too many seemed to take notice, or be too bothered about it; it has happened far too often now for 'Bazball' to not face serious scrutiny, if not downright condemnation, any longer

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Long before Alex Carey drove Will Jacks through the offside for the boundary that sealed a 4-1 triumph at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday, the Ashes had been won and lost. For all their bluster and bravado, England once again failed to match hype and hoopla with performance, surrendering the little urn to Australia, their fiercest rivals, inside the first three matches spread over 11 days.

It's been a decade and a half since England won a Test series Down Under, and more than ten years since they last had possession of the bragging rights that the urn brings with it. While it is true that Australia too haven't won a series in England since 2001, they can at least point to having drawn the last two away series by identical 2-2 scorelines. By contrast, either side of a 3-1 victory in 2010-11, England have been soundly beaten in Australia.

What makes this latest debacle particularly dispiriting from an English perspective is the utter lack of discipline and preparedness in the away ranks. Their lead-up to inarguably the most important showdown from their standpoint was patchy and disjointed bordering on the disrespectful. One isn't suggesting that England believed all they had to win was to turn up, but by going down so meekly to an Australian attack severely depleted (between them, regular skipper Pat Cummins, pace ace Josh Hazlewood and crack off-spinner Nathan Lyon made a measly three appearances out of a possible 15), Ben Stokes' men hardly covered themselves in glory.

Gung-ho

Much was made of the arrival in the middle of 2022 of Brendon McCullum, the former New Zealand captain, as the head coach of the Test side. McCullum succeeded Chris Silverwood and interim boss Andrew Strauss at a difficult time for the English; in the preceding 12 months when Joe Root was the captain, they won just once in 17 Tests. Their five-day game was in an inexorable tailspin when the SOS went out to McCullum, then the head coach of Kolkata Knight Riders who had captained his country in 31 Tests and led them to the final of the 2015 50-over World Cup. McCullum came armed with the philosophy of gung-ho positivity which found resonance with new skipper Ben Stokes. Together, the duo tied by a common Kiwi bond - Stokes was born in Christchurch - embarked on the arduous journey of rebuilding, not through conventional methods but by embracing the outrageous, which was perfectly acceptable to the primary stakeholders of English cricket given how far down the Test ladder they had slipped.

A comprehensive series win against New Zealand in a two-match series outside the ambit of the World Test Championship was the perfect start Stokes and McCullum were targeting, and things got even better in July in Birmingham when England and India squared off for the final act of a five-match faceoff held over from 12 months previously. India went into the decider 2-1 ahead but England barred their attacking batting fangs, repeatedly stinging Jasprit Bumrah's men with an extraordinary chase of 378 in the fourth innings. Bowled out for 284 in the first innings to concede a deficit of 132, England mounted a stirring riposte with the game on the line. Alex Lees and Zak Crawley, the openers, put on 107 in a little under 22 overs, but not even when the hosts lost three for two in 16 deliveries did they fall back on the defensive.

Instead, the Yorkshire pairing of Root and Jonny Bairstow took the fight to the opposition which, for some inexplicable reason, decided that going short on a placid track was the right option. The duo added 269 for the unfinished fourth-wicket stand in 315 deliveries, helping their team to a ridiculously easy seven-wicket victory. England's rate of scoring with the series in the balance was a scarcely believable 4.93 an over. It was seen as the ultimate vindication of 'Bazball', a reference to the no-holds-barred aggressive mantra of batsmanship which was completely at odds with the hitherto staid, traditional, conservative English style.

Fans flock in

Success, driven by the unique brand of entertainment that England had come to drape themselves in, endeared Stokes and McCullum to a fanbase accustomed to coming second best for so long. Suddenly, younger crowds started to swarm Test grounds across the country; there was a sense of excitement and breathless anticipation every time England took the field and it seemed at various stages as if no target was beyond the intrepid, carefree batting group assiduously assembled by the leadership group to fit their attacking needs.

The line between carefree and careless often blurred, but not too many seemed to take notice, or be too bothered about it. Given its very nature, 'Bazball' as a methodology would sometimes attract meltdowns. That's why few appeared terribly displeased when, chasing a monumental 557 for victory in Rajkot against India in February 2024, England slip-slid to 50 for seven and eventually shot out for 122 to go down by 434 runs. It happens, you know, the English tut-tutted.

It has happened far too often now for 'Bazball' to not face serious scrutiny, if not downright condemnation, any longer. Stokes and McCullum insist it's the way to go, never mind the results, but this is competitive sport and the result does matter, more than anything else. Those who originally swore by 'Bazball' are now crying foul, pointing to what they believe is massive disrespect to the Test format. Of course, they are emboldened by the fact that 'Bazball' hasn't delivered a coup in a big series to date.

Victory in 22 of the first 35 Tests in the Stokes-McCullum era seems a distant memory now. England have won only four of the next 11. In all, 46 Tests have produced 26 victories and 18 defeats. In the last three and a half years, England have failed to beat Australia and India either at home or away. Notwithstanding India's fall from grace as a Test force in their backyard, these two teams are considered the toughest opponents in the five-day game. A 1-2 loss in Pakistan in 2024-25 after sitting on a 1-0 lead is another example of the pitfalls of continuing to keep the faith in 'Bazball' with utter disregard for the conditions, the game situation and the quality of the opposition bowling.

England have sporadically spoken about being more 'humble' - whatever that means - which suggests that even they believe they can be arrogant at various times. What is eulogised as cute and daring in victory is pilloried as reckless and foolhardy when defeat comes calling regularly, as it has for England in recent times. In the last seven months alone, they have lost six of 10 Tests, continuing to stick with misfiring personnel in what is either a show of confidence or the classic example of failing to read the room.

Take Zak Crawley, for example. Touted as an aggressive opening batter who can take attacks apart, he averages 32.45 in 43 Tests in the age of 'Bazball'. Seventy-nine innings have produced just three centuries and 16 further scores of more than 50. The 27-year-old right-hander was one of six English batters to top 200 runs in the Ashes - only two made more than 275 each - but two half-centuries in 10 innings is simply not acceptable. After much dilly-dallying, England finally let go of Ollie Pope, who had been replaced as vice-captain before the start of this series by Harry Brook.

Pope's replacement at No. 3, Jacob Bethell, topped the averages for England at 51.25, courtesy a half-century and his maiden first-class ton in successive Tests as he finished with 205 runs. For all his reputation as a fiercely positive run-maker, Crawley scored at 64.08 runs per 100 balls faced; Bethell, the 22-year-old left-hander, hardly hit a shot in anger and never manufactured a stroke, yet his strike-rate was 60.47. More than anyone else, Bethell has made a compelling case for batting his own way, one of the primary requirements for any team to be successful at the highest level.

Test cricket, it needs no reiterating, calls for skills and resilience, yes, but also for common sense and prudence. There cannot be a one-size-fits-all team directive, no matter if the parts have been carefully picked to fit this philosophy. Those so inclined will point to Rishabh Pant's adventurism and his utter disdain for game situations which have occasionally been so terribly detrimental to his and the team's cause. Every team can, perhaps must, have a maverick, but imagine a team full of Rishabh Pants. That's what England sometimes resemble; Root is the steadying influence though in the last three and a half years, even he has been semi-sucked into the 'Bazball' school of thought while around him, the rest go hammer and tongs, except when the mood seizes him and Stokes goes ultra, ultra-defensive.

All of England's opponents have been at the receiving end of humbling blitzkriegs which, it must be said, ramp up the entertainment quotient. They must now be allowing themselves a quiet chuckle at how quickly the most hyped of approaches is gasping for oxygen. Australia, and to a lesser extent India overseas (in the last couple of years), have scored at an excellent rate without falling back on adventurism and brazenness.

They might not be as 'entertaining' in red-ball cricket as Stokes' band, they might not showcase the same derring-do, but perhaps Test cricket isn't just about entertainment.

It's also about putting a price on one's scalp, about attempting to play out a draw against all odds when victory is so far-fetched that it is out of the equation.

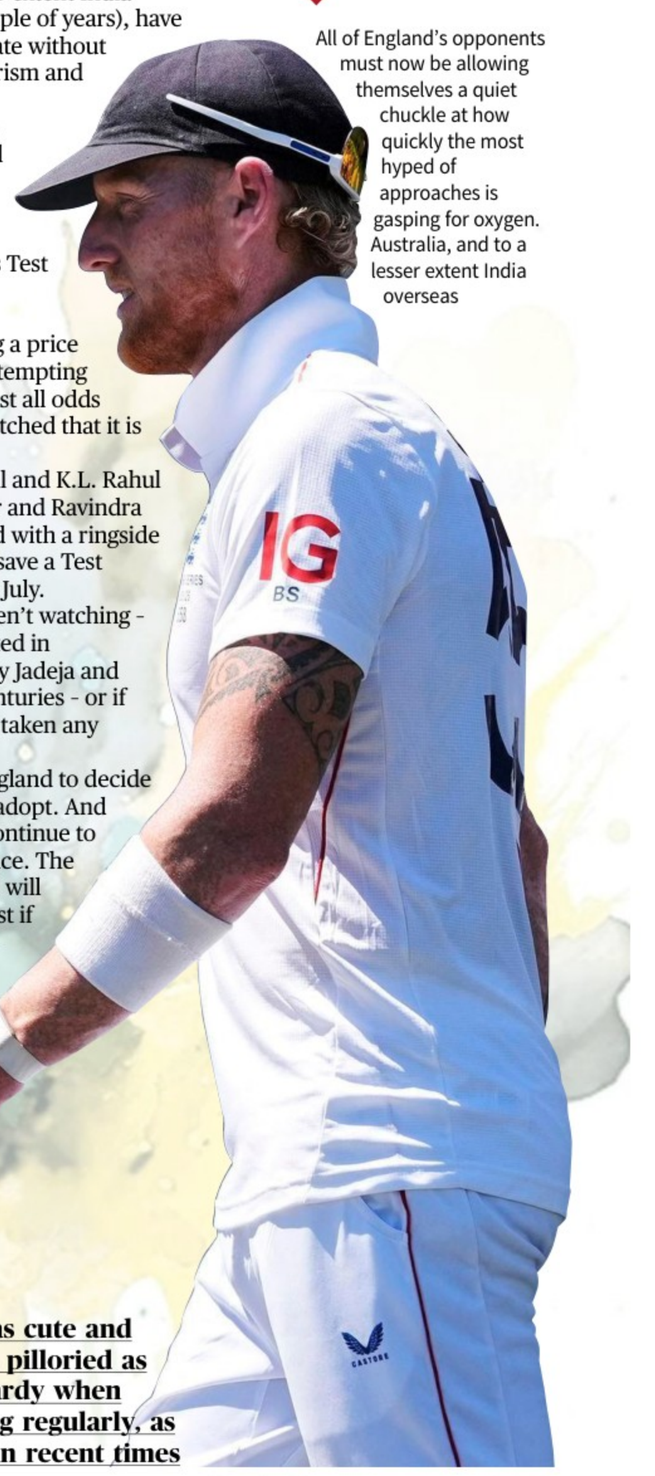
Captain Shubman Gill and K.L. Rahul and Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja provided England with a ringside view of what it takes to save a Test match in Manchester in July.

Clearly, England weren't watching - they were more interested in petulantly trying to deny Jadeja and Washington merited centuries - or if they were, they haven't taken any lessons on board.

Ultimately, it's for England to decide what tack they want to adopt. And whether they want to continue to put style before substance. The rest of the cricket world will be watching with interest if they recalibrate or stick to not fixing something that's clearly broken.

THE GIST

- Victory in 22 of the first 35 Tests in the Stokes-McCullum era seems a distant memory now. England have won only four of the next 11. In all, 46 Tests have produced 26 victories and 18 defeats
- Test cricket, it needs no reiterating, calls for skills and resilience, yes, but also for common sense and prudence. There cannot be a one-size-fits-all team directive, no matter if the parts have been carefully picked to fit this philosophy
- All of England's opponents must now be allowing themselves a quiet chuckle at how quickly the most hyped of approaches is gasping for oxygen. Australia, and to a lesser extent India overseas



What is eulogised as cute and daring in victory is pilloried as reckless and foolhardy when defeat comes calling regularly, as it has for England in recent times

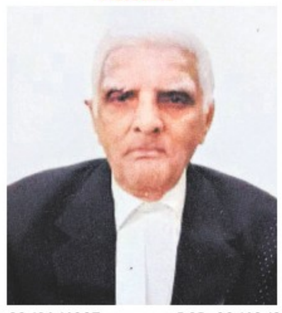
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

With deep grief we would like to inform you that
Shri GN Chandrasekaran
RTD Add. Commisioner, Central Excise
reached the Lotus Feet of God on **7 Jan 2026,** surrounded by his loved ones in Bangalore. Rituals will be performed from **Friday, 9 Jan** onwards at Bangalore
- With family and friends.

DEATH

Merged with GOD
A
Rare Genius
My Mentor
Sri Koduri Venkata Ramanayya Pantulu
Advocate

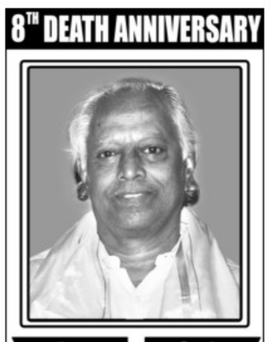


DOB: 09/01/1937 DOD: 22/12/2025.

His Student: **Anil Kumar Turaga.**
Advocate, Hyderabad.
email: surya_teja@hotmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

8TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Born 02.03.1937 Death 09.01.2018

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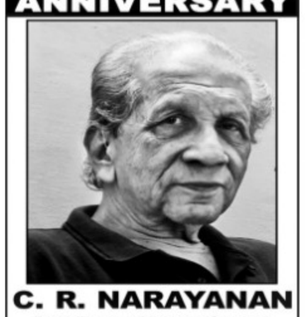
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD ANNIVERSARY



C. R. NARAYANAN
Retd Deputy Director General
Geological Survey of India
DOB : 4th May 1936
DOD : 9th January 2023

He was our guiding light and lived life on his own terms, being the rock we all depended on. He shall be cherished in our hearts forever.

Dhruv Vijairam, Ramya Vijayram, Priya Vijayram and C. Vijayram, C. Vijayanand

---

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Water Resource Department)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, UKP, Rehabilitation Division No.4, Bilagi, Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.

No.UKP/EE/Reh.Dn.4/PB-2/Tdr-5/2025-26/1126 Date: 08-01-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPPP)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, Lump sum tenders are invited for Providing Human Service On Outsource basis from eligible contractors pertaining to Indent No. 0021 Rs:140.23 lakhs, Indent No.0017 Rs:103.02 lakhs, Indent No. 0018 Rs:78.42 lakhs and Indent No. 0019 Rs:53.55 lakhs in two cover system. The last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is 29-01-2026 up to 5.30pm. Tender conditions & other details can be procured in e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and from this office in working hours.

Special Note:1) Contractor shall quote the total service charge required for one year in Rupees (INR) only. 2) For all contractors/ representatives it is compulsory to attend the scheduled pre bid meeting. Otherwise tenders will not be accepted. 3) Contractors to note all amendments & modifications time to time in E-procurement platform.

Executive Engineer,
UKP, Reh.Divn.No.4 Bilagi,
Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-498/KSMCA/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that my client, **SYED ZABI** intends to purchase the property located **at #69, 4th A Cross, Hosahalli, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040,** from **Smt. K. BHANUMATHI,** W/o. Ramachandra L.

Any person(s) having any family dispute claim, right, title, interest, mortgage, lien, charge or demand of any nature whatsoever on the said property by way of sale, exchange, gift, trust, inheritance, lease, or otherwise are hereby required to make the same required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at **Address: 22/1-1, 5th Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Old Guddada halli, Mysore Road, Bangalore-560026, Contact No: 9731163106/ 9900801079, within 40 days** from the date of this notice, failing which, the transaction will be completed without any reference to such claims.

Date: 09-01-2026 Place: Bangalore
DEEPA M,
Advocate & Notary Public Govt. of India
#198/A, Nandini Nilaya, 2nd Floor,
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SNEHA Rajesh Shah, W/o Akshay T Shah, r/at No 501, Vijay Mansion, 1st Main Road, 2nd Stage, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560104 have changed my name as Sneha Akshay Shah vide affidavit dtd 06.01.26 sworn before Notary Mamath N.K., Bluru

I, RAJU N S/O Neelappa R/O Garehatty, Thotada Thippeswamy Road, Dist. Chitradurga (Karnataka) have changed my name to N RAJAKUMAR forever.

I, MUKHTAR Ahmad Mohammad Shariff, r/at No.18, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Muddamma Garden, Near Water Tank, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046 have changed my name as Mukhtar Ahmed Sharieff vide affidavit dtd 08.01.26 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

I, CHANDRAKANTA Ramji Patel Ramji Patel, R/a No.345/B, Shivashakthi Krupa, 17th Loop Road, 9th Main, Ideal Homes Society, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098 have changed my name to Chandrakanth Ramji Patel vide affidavit dt: 06.01.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, NISHITHA Keshav Reddy, R/a No.2681, 31st Main Road, Behind CPWD Quarters, HSR Layout, 1st sector, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name to Nishitha Keshava Reddy vide affidavit dt: 06.01.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, ASFAR Sharief Anwar Mumtaz also known as Afsar Sharief S/o Jaffer Sharieff residing at No.1-131/2, 1st Floor, Rama Tent Road, Near Sayeeda Masjid, K G Halli, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to Afsar Sharieff vide affidavit dated 07/01/2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, MIR Quarram S/o Mir Hussain residing at Ward No.06, Chikka Masidi Beedi, Shiya Mohalla, Holenarasipura Town, Hassan-573211 Karnataka have changed my name to Mir Kurram Ali vide affidavit dated 07/01/2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

REAL ESTATE

HILLTOP FARM For Sale In Wayanad. Cont:7338630606

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE BY MSCI ESG Ratings and Research Private Limited We, MSCI ESG Ratings and Research Private Limited, hereby give notice that we have initiated the process of surrendering our Certificate of Registration as an ESG Rating Provider, bearing IN/ERP/Category–II/0013. Further information will be made available on www.msci.com/india/esg in due course. If you have any questions, please contact us at compliance_India_erp@msci.com.

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SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

IGSTC
INDO-GERMAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Vacancy announcement
Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC), New Delhi, India
invites applications for the post of
"Senior Program Associate/ Program Associate"
For more information related to vacancy, please visit IGSTC website at www.igstc.org

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION), ANANTHAPURAMU

O.S No: 92/2025

Between:
Bhupalam Adi Narayana ...Plaintiff
And
K.L.Narasimha Rao and another ...Defendants

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT NO:2

D2: Vasundaramma Hampapuram, W/o Late. H.Rama Gopal, R/at Pyramid Road, Vidyanagar, Karekallahalli, Gowribidanuru, Chiikaballapur, Karnataka State.

Please take notice that the above Suit in O.S.No: 92/2025, stands posted to **21-01-2026** for your appearance. Please attend before the above mentioned Court **at 10:30 A.M. on 21-01-2026**, either in person or through Advocate failing which the matter will be proced exparte

(By order of the court)

L K..SUDHENDRANATH,
Advocate, Ananthapuramu,
Andhra Pradesh. Cell: 9849304929

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE,TIRUNELVELI
MACOP.No.180/2024
Periyadurai
....Petitioner
Vs
K.Thangaraj, S/o.A.Kunnudaiyan, No.10, SSS Building, A V Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018
....1st Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the petitioner in the above case has filed claim application on account of injuries sustained by him in a vehicular accident held on 27-09-2023 at Tuticorin-Tirunelveli NH Road, Near Vallanadu Firing Station. The above case in posted on 19-01-2026 for appearance of the 1st respondent before this Hon'ble Court on 10.00 A.M, failing which the court will decide the 1st respondent as "Called Exparte" in this case.

-As per Court Order-
By Advocate
A.SELVARAJ, B.Sc., B.L.,
Tuticorin. ✆ 99940 21194

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE,TIRUNELVELI
MACOP.No.179/2024
Chandran
....Petitioner
Vs
K.Thangaraj, S/o.A.Kunnudaiyan, No.10, SSS Building, A V Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018
....1st Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the petitioner in the above case has filed claim application on account of injuries sustained by him in a vehicular accident held on 27-09-2023 at Tuticorin-Tirunelveli NH Road, Near Vallanadu Firing Station. The above case in posted on 19-01-2026 for appearance of the 1st respondent before this Hon'ble Court on 10.00 A.M, failing which the court will decide the 1st respondent as "Called Exparte" in this case.

-As per Court Order-
By Advocate
A.SELVARAJ, B.Sc., B.L.,
Tuticorin. ✆ 99940 21194

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

Application invited for Engagement of Business Data Analyst (Enterprise level)- Contract Basis

Re-Notification No. KSEBL/CE/IT/CU/92/Data-Analyst/2025-26 Dated 03.01.2026

Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd. Invites fresh applications from qualified and experienced professionals for the post of **Business Data Analyst (Enterprise Level)** on contract basis (initially for one year, extendable).

No. of Posts: 1, Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 20.01.2026

Detailed notification and application format are available on: www.kseb.in

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कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभाग-प्रथम, उदयपुर

क्रमांक :- ACE/NIT/2025-26/D-609 दिनांक : 31/12/2025

निविदा संख्या 18/2025-26

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सडक निर्माण कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए, एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में सड़क निर्माण कार्यों के लिए ई- प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

कार्य का नाम	कुल 2 (दो) सडक कार्य
निविदा की कुल लागत	राशि रु. 3828.00 लाख
ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	08.01.2026 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 28.01.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	30.01.2026 सांय 4.00 बजे से

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।

NIB:- PWD2526A4928 UBN: PWD2526WLOB19694, PWD2526WLOB19695

DIPR/C/118/2026 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग-प्रथम उदयपुर

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asci Leadership through Learning

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF INDIA
Bellavista, Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad, Telangana-500082.

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER ADVERTISEMENT
PROCUREMENT OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE LABORATORY

The Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) invited sealed bids from eligible and experienced manufacturers/authorized dealers/suppliers for the supply, installation, commissioning, training and warranty support of laboratory equipment as per the tender document. A corrigendum is released in this regard. Corrigendum to the Tender is available for download from the ASCI website: https://asci.org.in/tender (refer to Tender Notice No. ASCI/ESL/PROC-LAB/2025-26/01 along with the corrigendum). **Extended Timeline for Tender Submission: 22nd January 2026.**

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Act of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR TEACHING & OTHER ACADEMIC STAFF POSTS
(Notice Regarding Extension of Last Dates to Apply)

No. AUD/55-1(49)/Rect./2025/519 Dated: 07.01.2026

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established through an Act by the Legislature of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, invites online applications from the eligible candidates for the Faculty positions (Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor) and other Academic Staff positions (Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Assistant Director of Physical Education and Sports) on regular basis.

Extended last dates to apply are as follows:
Last date to apply online: 23.01.2026 (up to 23:59 hrs)
Last date of receiving applications in hard copy: 30.01.2026 (up to 05:30 hrs)

For Qualifications, Eligibility Criteria, General Instructions, Online Application Form, Payment of Fee & other details, please visit University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in**

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0399/25-26. REGISTRAR
Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Project office, Rayapudi

NIT No. 107/PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(OTH)/3/2026-HB Dt. 07.01.2026

E Procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work: APCRDA - "RFP for Engagement of Project Management Consultant for Construction of Governor's Residence Complex consisting Governor Mansion, Assembly Durbar Hall, Governor office, 2 Nos of Guest Houses, 6 Nos of Officer Quarters, 10 Nos of Senior Staff Quarters,12 Nos of Junior Staff Quarters, 40 Nos of Supporting Staff Quarters, Barracks with 20 Rooms and 144 Barrack Accommodation, Boundary Wall with 4 Nos of Sentry Post, etc at Amaravati Government Complex area, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh (RCC Structure with High side MEP only)"

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **09.01.2026 to 23.01.2026 upto 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **23.01.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **23.01.2026 @16.00Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

E Procurement Short Tender Notice

Sl.No	NIT Number	Name of Work
1	109/PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(ARCH)/1/2026-IFR, Date: 07.01.2026	RFP for Selection of Consultant for Comprehensive architectural services (Site planning, Architecture, Engineering, Structural Engineering, Interiors, Landscape, MEP, HVAC, IT, Acoustics, Safety System, Signages& Way Finding, Lighting Design, Graphics Design, Primary Survey etc) for the AP Judicial Academy at Amaravati
2	105/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/17/2025-HB, Date: 08.01.2026	RFP for Selection of Service Provider for Technical Facility Management Services for APCRDA Project Office Building at Rayapudi, Amaravati Capital City.
3	106/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/17/2025-HB, Date: 08.01.2026	RFP for Selection of ServiceProvider for IT Operations & Maintenance Services for APCRDA Project Office Building at Rayapudi, Amaravati Capital City.

The above bids may be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **09.01.2026 to 20.01.2026 upto 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **20.01.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **20.01.2026 @16.00Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Amaravati.

RAMANAGARA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Kengal Hanumanthaiah Abhivrudhi Bhavan, B.M. Road, Ramanagara
Bengaluru South Dist.-562159, Ph: 080-27276616 e-mail: ruda.me@gmail.com

No: RUDA/E-PROC/TND-01/2025-26 Date : 07.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka under KC-4 (QCBC) Standard Bid documents (Two cover system) has been called for **Preparation of detailed Project report for Improvements and redevelopment of Kanva Layout under Ramanagara Urban Development Authority & Preparation of detailed Project report for Improvements and redevelopment of Arkavathi Layout under Ramanagara Urban Development Authority**. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement **Dt: 07.01.2026 5.00 PM** onwards. Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is **21.01.2026 upto 5:00PM.** Opening of Technical bid: **22.01.2026, 5.00 PM** onwards, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligible Agencies/Consultants can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No +91-9240214000/+91-9240214001. For more details log on to **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.080-27276616. Tender Form Fees - As per e-procurement.

Sd/- Commissioner
Ramanagar Urban Development Authority
Bengaluru South Dist.

DIPR/BSD/553/SA/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

The all-new **Kia Seltos**
Presents
THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE 2026
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with
CHRIST
NITTE

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which Harper Lee novel, set in the racially segregated American South, is narrated by Scout Finch and centres on a lawyer defending a Black man falsely accused of rape?
2. Which global bestselling series features a young demigod who learns he is the son of Poseidon?
3. Which novel, told through letters and diary entries, recounts the chilling tale of a blood-drinking Transylvanian count?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. A Christmas Carol | 2. The Queen's Gambit | 3. Jon Fosse

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Aayush.K, Hisar | 2. Dilip Viswaraj, Chennai | 3. Kazi Sabrin, Lucknow

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
e-mail:- serw_ctc@yahoo.com

No:-Tender Online RWC -01/26, Letter No.:- 44 Date : 3/1/26

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road & Bridge works.
2. Class of Contractor
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
e) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC - 01/26	12.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M.	02.02.2026 up to 05.00 P.M	02.02.2026 up to 02.00 P.M	03.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** .

O-1934: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.**

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No 10 Dated: 07/01/2026

Tenders (Pre-qualification and/ or Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items	Tender Value in crores. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17.00 hrs
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0262	Procurement of Pre-cured Tread Rubber and Allied Materials (Short term tender)	11.00	14.01.2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0263	Procurement of Enamel Paints and allied Materials	2.5	16.02.2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0264	Procurement of Window Flock Channel with Rubber	0.40	27.01.2026
KSRTC/2025-26/SE2206	Providing Fumigation Services for Buses of KSRTC	0.60	27.01.2026

Further any addendum /corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specifications, scope of work, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/ 080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org (contact: 7760990224).

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/4939/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-03/459/2025-26 Date:08.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tenders from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of works for project mentioned below:

Name of the Works : (1) Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Scientific Disposal of Industrial Solid Waste by Integrated Material Recovery Facility(MRF) and Alternate Fuel Raw Material Facility (AFR) including survey analysis, qualitative & quantitative study, design of MRF & ARF facility etc., at Plot No. 311 to 314, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District. **(2)** Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the formation of new industrial areas including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design, Preparation of Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Tidagundi Village, Vijayapura Taluk & District. (Extent 1203A.06G).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **28.01.2026 upto 04:00 p.m.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/JA/4929/2025-26

Amid Kogilu row, houses demolished near Thanisandra without notices

BDA maintains that 13 houses were razed; many of the displaced families were tenants who had been living in the area for nearly five years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) Kogilu demolition drive is facing strong criticism, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Thursday razed over 13 houses without any prior notice in Ashwath Nagar near Thanisandra in northeast Bengaluru.

The BDA officials and police officers, along with four earthmovers, arrived in the area at 7 a.m., knocked on the doors of houses, and asked occupants to vacate immediately, stating that an order had been issued to demolish the structures. The officials claimed that the houses had been built on the BDA land and proceeded with the demolition.

P. Manivannan, BDA Commissioner, admitted that prima facie there had been a lapse on the part of the BDA's Special Task Force (STF), as there was no record of residents being alerted through notices. He told *The Hindu* that the BDA would make all arrangements for rehabilitation and bear the costs. While the BDA maintains that 13 houses were demolished, residents said that more than 20 houses were affected. Many of the displaced families were tenants who had been living in the area for nearly five years, they said.

Residents with their belongings after their houses were brought down at Ashwath Nagar, near Thanisandra, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> BDA has constituted a Special Task Force and has been reclaiming civic body land over the past three months
>
> **P. MANIVANNAN**
> BDA Commissioner

Plight of people

However, the affected families have refused to leave the site, despite the BDA arranging alternative accommodation in Hegde Nagar, citing fears of negative consequences if they moved away. Asiya, 25, said she has kidney-related health issues and had been resting for several months. "Now, with nowhere to go, I am forced to stay on the streets," she said, breaking down.

Mohammad Shafeeq, 32, pointed to his seven-year-old son with a disability, who was lying on a bedsheet on the ground. "He can't get up, nor can he eat. What should I do? Where should I take him? Will those offering a place provide us food, water, and daily essentials?" he asked. "Many families in the area have offered us food, but how can we eat while our houses are being demolished?" he added.

Several residents in the neighbourhood provided food and water to the affected children.

Probe ordered

Mr. Manivannan told *The Hindu* that the BDA had constituted an STF and has been reclaiming civic body land over the past three months. "We verify documents and initiate demolition works. Even this land belongs to the BDA as per our records, but the demolition was carried out without serving notice," he said.

According to him, the STF also demolished a few structures in two other areas on Thursday, but notices had been served in those cases. Mr. Manivannan said he has ordered a probe into the lapses, and retired Justice Niyaz Ahmed will investigate the matter and submit a report within 30 days.

Mohammad Sharif, a resident of the area, said that a few individuals had constructed makeshift shelters and rented them out for ₹3,000 to ₹4,000. Tenants had also paid advances ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000.

Many of them possess documents showing ownership of the sites. One family had even "purchased" a plot just 15 days ago, according to the affected residents.

Allegation

They alleged that the demolition drive was carried out because a prominent politician owns land nearby, despite residents holding what they claim are genuine documents.

Some affected families also produced documents, whose authenticity has not been independently verified by *The Hindu*, claiming ownership of the plots. However, Mr. Manivannan said he was confident that the land belongs to the BDA and that the records would be reverified.

The residents said they had purchased the land through agents, raising suspicions of illegal property sales, similar to what was reported in the Kogilu Layout case.

Two arrested for encroachment of govt. land at Kogilu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after registering an FIR, the Yelahanka police on Wednesday arrested two persons for allegedly encroaching on government land at Fakir Colony in Kogilu village, in north Bengaluru.

The accused have been identified as Waseem Baig, 55, and Vijay Kumar, 36.

According to police officials, several individuals had illegally occupied government land in Kogilu village and constructed sheds without authorisation. Acting on complaints, the Greater Bengaluru Authority removed the encroachments.

Following the eviction drive, the police registered a case under various provisions of the Land Grabbing Prohibition Act against those involved in the illegal occupation of government property.

During the course of the investigation, the police allegedly found Waseem Baig and Vijay Kumar to be actively involved in encroaching on government land and facilitating unlawful land-grabbing. The accused were arrested and produced in court.

Kogilu: 26 families eligible to receive houses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Housing, Waqf, and Minority Welfare B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan said on Thursday that 26 families who lost their houses in the Kogilu demolition drive have so far been identified as eligible beneficiaries to receive houses. He said that Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda had informed him that 26 families were found eligible for government housing, as they had produced all the required documents.

"To become an eligible beneficiary, families should be from Karnataka and should have been living here for five years," the Minister said.

Senior citizen loses ₹26.52 lakh to online fraudsters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central division cybercrime police on Monday registered an FIR against an unknown person who, posing as an RTO official, cheated a senior citizen by sending a fake RTO challan link, resulting in a financial loss of over ₹26.52 lakh.

According to the complaint, a 64-year-old resident of Ejipura received a message from an unknown mobile number claiming it to be an RTO challan update. The message contained an APK file, which the complainant downloaded believing it to be genuine.

Soon after installing the file, the complainant noticed suspicious activity on his mobile phone.

Subsequently, the complainant's two bank accounts were compromised. On December 25, 2025, unauthorised transactions were carried out as the fraudsters used the fake RTO challan application as a tool to gain access to the victim's banking details. The victim raised a complaint with the banks and blocked his accounts, but in vain.

Further investigation revealed that on December 24, 2025, a total ₹26,52,434 was illegally transferred from the complainant's accounts without his consent.

In a similar case, a 63-year-old resident of Vittal Mallya road lost ₹1.9 lakh to the APK file scam. According to the complaint filed on January 4, he received a text message containing a traffic violation legal issue . He clicked on the link and added his account number. Minutes later, he realised a total of ₹1.9 lakh has been deducted from his savings account.

In another case, a 31-year-old private firm employee and resident of Gubbalala also lost ₹2.2 lakh to a similar fraud.

The police have advised people not to access any APK links.

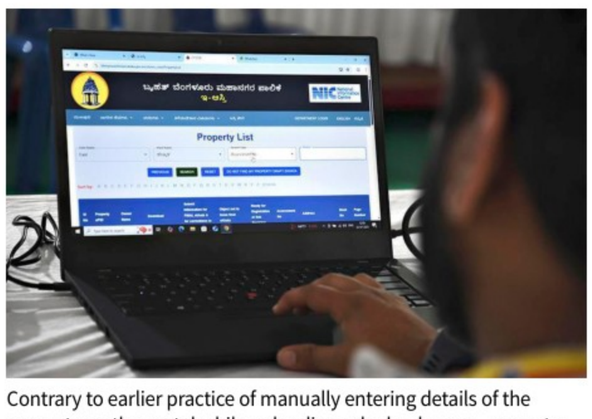
Kaveri 2.0 autofilling property details from e-Khatas, builders claim ECs having incomplete details

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

A tweak in Kaveri 2.0, the portal for property registrations in the State to prevent fraudulent property transactions from December 5, 2025, has reportedly led to some details, especially of flats, being left out from Encumbrance Certificates (ECs).

Contrary to earlier practice of manually entering details of the property on the portal while uploading sale deeds, now, property details are being autofilled from the e-Khata, mandatory for property registrations. No manual editing is being allowed.

Builders claimed the name of the project, carpet area, tower number, block number are not being reflected properly in ECs.



Contrary to earlier practice of manually entering details of the property on the portal while uploading sale deeds, now, property details are being autofilled from the e-Khata, mandatory for property registrations. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Undertaking from home buyers

This has prompted several prominent builders in the city to get undertakings signed from flat buyers saying they are aware of this issue and still going ahead.

"I am aware that the particulars of the property are getting updated from the Kaveri 2.0 Citizen Portal. While uploading the particulars of the sale deed in Kaveri 2.0 Citizen Portal to secure approval and appointment for registration, on entering the e-Khata number, the information relating to the apartment as recorded by the panchayath/municipal authorities would be displayed automatically. In the said display most of the particulars of the property provided in the sale deed are shown correctly but some of the particulars like the name of the project, the extent of carpet area/built-up area/Tower/Block No and boundaries of the apartment are not shown. However, the super built-up area of the apartment and number of car park/s is/are properly shown. Further undivided share of land is shown as Owner Share Area. Except the aforesaid, the rest of the particulars of the apartment are displayed correctly in the system and in the Encumbrance Certificate," an undertaking a prominent builder in the city is getting the homebuyers' sign, read. M.S. Shankar, general secretary, Forum for People's Collective Efforts, fighting for home buyers, said getting such undertakings signed was in violation of The Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016.

Builders' appeal

K.R. Ramesh, a builder and property consultant, said that all details not reflected in the EC, particularly the project name, could lead to troubles for financial institutions granting loans and NRI owners. This could also lead to frauds, he said.

Another builder said that prominent builders of the city had appealed to the authorities to allow for manual editing, but were turned down stating that the EC doesn't impact the underlying apartment configuration, ownership or title.

Mullai Muhilan, Inspector-General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps, Karnataka, said the latest reform was done to prevent property frauds. "We are populating the fields with truth from the source. We cannot go back to the old methods and allow manual editing and give room for frauds," he said.

Suresh Hari of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), Karnataka, said that the solution was for the e-Khata to have more fields than it has now. "Let the Kaveri 2.0 portal take details from e-Khata . But we need to bring reforms to the e-Khata to have more descriptive fields. The e-Khata is a very good initiative. Some problems we will know only after implementation. What is needed is for the software to be updated constantly to respond to ground realities and ensure it doesn't become a bottleneck," he said.

However, Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), Greater Bengaluru Authority, who spearheaded the e-Khata initiative, said, "Corrections should happen in e-Khatas and cannot be done at the time of registration, because property details are fetched from 2-khata and RTC system."

New descriptive field

Meanwhile, Mr. Muhilan told *The Hindu* that while the Kaveri 2.0 will continue to autofill property details from e-Khata and will not allow manual editing, the Department of Stamps and Registration will introduce a new descriptive field in another week's time, where some additional details can be entered. But, he said what can be entered in this additional field will be limited to two to three genuine instances, which can become a problem because of autofilling of property details from e-Khata.

Yoga halves opioid withdrawal time: NIMHANS study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A randomised clinical trial by researchers from NIMHANS has found that adding a short yoga module to standard medical management for opioid dependence can reduce the time patients take to stabilise from withdrawal symptoms by nearly half.

The study, published in JAMA Psychiatry on Wednesday, is among the first controlled trials to evaluate a yoga-based intervention for opioid use disorder.

Participants, who received yoga alongside buprenorphine-based treatment, achieved withdrawal resolution in a median of five days, compared with nine days among those on medication alone. Patients in the yoga group also reported better sleep and lower anxiety and pain during the withdrawal period.

The researchers additionally monitored heart rate variability (HRV) as an objective marker of autonomic stress. The yoga group showed stronger improvement in HRV indices reflective of parasympathetic activation, which accounted for a quarter of the faster recovery in mediation analysis.

Hemant Bhargav from the Department of Integrative Medicine at NIMHANS, who led the study, told reporters on Thursday that the module was designed to be practical even during acute withdrawal and can be administered at the bedside without special equipment. "In the trial, we observed faster clinical stabilisation and better autonomic recovery among those receiving yoga in addition to standard treatment," Mr. Bhargav said.

"This is a population that is difficult to engage and treat, and standard pharmacotherapy does not address all symptom domains. The objective and subjective markers we assessed showed improvement with the yoga add-on," said Jayant Mahadevan, co-principal investigator.

Trial design

The early-stage randomised trial was conducted at the Centre for Addiction Medicine in collaboration with the Department of Integrative Medicine. Recruitment of patients was carried out between April 30, 2023, and March 31, 2024. Fifty-nine adult inpatients with opioid use disorder were randomly assigned to standard withdrawal management or standard management with an added 45-minute yoga module for two weeks.

Both arms received buprenorphine-based treatment, counselling and psychosocial support. The yoga module included supine relaxation postures, slow breathing with prolonged exhalation, left-nostril breathing, humming breath, and brief guided relaxation. Sessions were delivered bedside or in small groups by trained therapists.

Another author Bharath Holla, associate professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Integrative Medicine, said anxiety, disturbed sleep and pain often persist beyond physical withdrawal and contribute to early relapse risk. In the trial, sleep latency reduced by about an hour on average in the yoga arm, while anxiety scores decreased more sharply compared with the control group, he said.

Shifting opioid patterns

Doctors at the Centre for Addiction Medicine pointed to changing opioid use patterns in Karnataka, with misuse of synthetic pharmaceutical opioids such as tapentadol becoming more common among young adults. "Nearly 80% of participants were tapentadol users, many of them in their twenties," said Prabhat Chand, head of the centre. Around 90% of participants were from Karnataka.

The study was carried out under the supervision of NIMHANS Director Pratima Murthy and Dr. Chand, with collaboration from researchers at Harvard Medical School.

The researchers said shortening the withdrawal period could improve treatment retention during a vulnerable phase of recovery, but follow-up studies are ongoing. A six-month relapse prevention phase is under way, and the group is exploring the feasibility of community and digital delivery models.

"There is potential public health value in low-cost, low-risk interventions that can be layered onto existing care," Dr. Chand added.

Labourer involved in minor girl's murder caught in Odisha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after the murder of a six-year-old girl near her makeshift house in Whitefield, the police tracked down the accused in Odisha while he was allegedly fleeing to his hometown with his family on Wednesday.

Saidulu Adavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), said that the suspect was brought back after obtaining transit remand from a local court to ascertain the exact reason behind the murder.

The accused has been identified as Yusuf Meer, aged around 30. He is a migrant labourer from West Bengal, and a neighbour of the victim. He was on the train with his wife and children when he was intercepted and arrested, the police said.

The body of the victim, who was missing since Monday afternoon, was found on Tuesday night inside a dry canal in the vicinity.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the accused was strangled as the body was found with plastic rope around the neck . "Though there were no signs of sexual assault, the police are waiting for the post-mortem report," an official said.

Why awareness about folic acid is the key to prevent Spina Bifida

The fact that pre-conceptional intake of folic acid can prevent more than 70% of Spina Bifida cases has been known; yet, India is one of the few countries where no meaningful efforts have been made to create awareness making it home to one of highest prevalence rates of the condition

Santosh Karmarkar
Sneha Sawant

One day, some weeks ago, a young mother of a seven-month-old baby from Jharkhand called in tears, about her child who was born with a large lump on his back and was unable to move his legs.

Local doctors did not give her any information about the problem that her newborn had, or treatment options. The infant seemed otherwise normal, and in the first six months was growing as any other child, except for paralysis of his lower limbs. He smiled, recognised his parents and was a great source of joy for the entire family. But his diagnosis and treatment had remained unknown to the parents. They were not informed that this birth defect is called Spina Bifida and is the commonest birth defect in India. Nor were they aware that this serious condition could potentially be prevented by taking a folic acid tablet periconceptionally. And most of all, they were not aware that there are several medical and surgical treatments for children born with this condition.

Preventable condition: Spina Bifida is a birth defect of the spinal cord that causes serious childhood paralysis and occurs in more than 25,000 children in India each year. The range of paralysis varies from mild weakness in the feet to complete paralysis from the hip downwards. GETTY IMAGES

Understanding Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida is a birth defect of the spinal cord that causes serious childhood paralysis and occurs in more than 25,000 children in India each year, making the country home to one of the highest prevalence rates of this condition in the world. And yet, awareness about it remains poor.

The range of paralysis in Spina Bifida patients varies from mild weakness in the feet to complete paralysis from the hip downwards, resulting in many patients being wheelchair dependent right from early childhood.

Additionally, affected children may have associated problems such as excessive water in the brain (hydrocephalus), urinary and bowel incontinence (lack of control) and orthopaedic issues such as club feet, and other medical problems.

Though many children become paraplegic and incontinent, there is no intellectual impairment: they are capable of leading independent and productive lives, if they are able to access expert medical care. However, in India, medical care is not available to over 75% of children with Spina Bifida.

Spina Bifida, therefore, can be a devastating condition for those affected by it, as well as for their families.

Meaningful efforts missing

What is both tragic and unpardonable, is the fact that despite the knowledge that Spina Bifida can be largely prevented with a B complex vitamin (folic acid), awareness regarding this simple and inexpensive intervention continues to remain lacking.

Since 1991, the fact that pre-conceptional intake of folic acid by women can prevent more than 70% of Spina Bifida cases has been known, after the results of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Vitamin Study were published in *The Lancet*. Yet, 30 years later, India is one of the few countries where no meaningful efforts to create awareness about this intervention have been carried out – both at the level of States and the Centre. This gap has resulted in thousands of children in India being born with serious childhood paralysis, causing great socio-economic distress to a multitude of families.

While it is understood that in unplanned pregnancies awareness about pre-conceptional vitamins may not be given, the lack of any effort to educate the public about this common, devastating and preventable condition cannot be termed anything less than gross public health negligence.

Global efforts, research

Many countries across the world have conducted national awareness campaigns and initiated programmes to create awareness in order to prevent of Spina Bifida through folic acid supplementation. Additionally, 68 countries have made fortification of relevant food vehicles, with folic acid, mandatory by law. In these countries, awareness campaigns and food fortification have reduced the prevalence rates of Spina Bifida to below 1 per 1,000 births by eliminating folic acid preventable cases. In India, in contrast, the prevalence rate remains unacceptably high, at about 4 per 1,000, primarily because no such efforts have been undertaken.

Many countries have conducted national awareness campaigns and initiated programmes to create awareness in order to prevent of Spina Bifida through folic acid supplementation

Research is ongoing to study the fortification of food vehicles such as salt and tea that are widely and uniformly consumed – especially in countries such as India. A preliminary trial for tea fortification (results of which were published in *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health)* found that tea could potentially be vehicle for fortification with folate and vitamin B12 in India, in order to help eliminate haematological and neurological complications.

The message

Spina Bifida places enormous socio-economic burdens on families, societies and the healthcare system in India. Each rupee spent on prevention in this regard can help save more than 100 rupees required for treatment and rehabilitation.

It is time for a national awareness campaign about Spina Bifida and how it can be prevented. Simultaneously, efforts must be made to explore food fortification with folic acid and vitamin B12. It is only efforts such as these that will contribute toward the primary prevention of Spina Bifida and anencephaly, averting stillbirths, and under-five deaths due to these birth defects says Vijaya Kancherla, director, Center for Spina Bifida Prevention (CSBP) at Emory University, U.S.

Until every woman in our country knows that a folic acid tablet, taken before conception and during pregnancy, can help prevent Spina Bifida and until our healthcare systems are in place to comprehensively help families with affected children, the work remains incomplete.

(Dr. Santosh Karmarkar is a paediatric surgeon based in Mumbai and founder-trustee of Spina Bifida Foundation. santoshjk@yahoo.com; Sneha Sawant is social worker and chief coordinator of Spina Bifida Foundation. sneha.ccsbf@gmail.com)

Paediatricians point to rapid urbanisation as a major contributor to changing blood pressure patterns. GETTY IMAGES

Emerging challenge of childhood hypertension

Athira Elssa Johnson

Hypertension and its associated risks among children and adolescents are emerging as a significant paediatric health issue, driven by lifestyle changes, rising obesity and urban living. A recent Lancet systematic review and meta-analysis on the global prevalence of hypertension among children and adolescents aged 19 years or younger found that prevalence has nearly doubled between 2000 and 2020, reflecting a consistent upward trend across regions. Experts warn that this rise carries long-term implications for cardiovascular, metabolic and kidney health.

Hypertension in children differs fundamentally in its underlying profile. "Unlike in adults, where most cases are primary and without an identifiable cause, children with high blood pressure often have an underlying condition," said Suresh Kumar K., cardiologist, Kauvery Hospitals, Chennai. Disorders of the kidneys, adrenal glands and blood vessels are commonly implicated, making evaluation for secondary causes a critical step when elevated readings are detected in children.

This distinction, clinicians say, underscores the need for careful clinical assessment rather than treating elevated blood pressure in children as a lifestyle issue alone.

Key drivers and risk factors

Paediatricians point to rapid urbanisation as a major contributor to changing blood pressure patterns. According to S. Satyamanasa Gayatri Vinay, senior consultant in paediatrics, SRM Global Hospitals, Chennai, increased consumption of processed foods, higher salt intake, reduced physical activity and longer screen time have become defining features of childhood in urban settings. Environmental stressors including noise, air pollution and academic pressure further compound the risk. Limited access to safe play spaces and healthy food options adds to the burden, particularly in cities.

P. Manokar, senior interventional cardiologist at Kauvery Hospital, Vadapalani, described this phenomenon as part of what experts term 'environmental hypertensionology', where neighbourhood design, green spaces, walkability and pollution levels influence blood pressure. "Being urban itself has become a non-modifiable risk factor," he said. Body weight remains the most significant modifiable risk factor. Excess fat alters hormonal balance and vascular function, increasing cardiac workload and vascular resistance.

Long-term risks include coronary heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Prolonged untreated hypertension may also cause lasting vascular damage, often described as irreversible arterial changes.

Accurate diagnosis requires age-appropriate assessment. "Blood pressure interpretation in children must be guided by percentile charts based on age and body size," said Neville Solomon, consultant paediatric and adult congenital cardiac surgeon, Apollo Children's Hospitals, Chennai. Adolescents may be assessed using adult thresholds, but younger children and infants require specialised reference standards.

Improper measurement including the use of adult cuffs can lead to misdiagnosis, experts caution.

School health programmes are increasingly viewed as a key platform for early detection. Regular screening can help identify children at risk and initiate timely dietary, lifestyle or medical interventions.

Experts emphasise that prevention and management must begin early.
(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

THE HEALTH QUIZ

Please send in your answers to health@thehindu.co.in

It's the season of sneezes, coughs, sore throats, sniffles and snotty noses. Here is a quiz to test your knowledge of winter infections that affect human beings

Zubeda Hamid

QUESTION 1
Which virus is most often the culprit behind your common cold?

QUESTION 2
After a viral infection, some people contract _____, a condition in which the airways of the lungs get inflamed. A persistent cough is the usual symptom.

QUESTION 3
Paracetamol is commonly used as a fever reliever and to manage symptoms of winter infections. What is the safe dosage for adults in a 24-hour period?

QUESTION 4
Is the following statement true or false: Cold air kills viruses.

QUESTION 5
Pneumonia is a common winter infections. Which part of the lungs does it affect?

QUESTION 6
The influenza virus causes the flu, and people often contract it in winter. Influenza viruses A, B and C are the common viruses behind the flu. Is the flu contagious?

QUESTION 7
RSV is a common virus, usually mild, causing cold-like symptoms. Immunity from contracting this infection does not last, so people can get it more than once. What is the full form of RSV?

QUESTION 8
Which vitamin is more useful to help prevent winter illnesses — vitamin C or D?

Visual Question: Black pepper, commonly used a home remedy to soothe symptoms of stuffy noses and sore throats. What is the active compound in it that helps, called? GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Answers to previous edition's quiz:
1. ___ are the intermediate hosts for the parasitic flatworm that causes schistosomiasis (bilharzia). **Ans: Freshwater snails** 2. Triatomine bugs transmit Chagas disease by biting a person and defecating near the bite. These bugs have a nickname. What is it? **Ans: Kissing bugs** 3. Sandflies carry this parasititic protozoa found in tropical and subtropical areas, which in humans can cause severe skin ulcers or infection of internal organs. Name the parasite, which gives its name to the disease it. **Ans: Leishmania** 4. _____is a group of diseases caused by a bacteria called Rickettsiaprowazekii. **Ans: epidemic typhus** 5. anopheles mosquito also causes a viral infection, a neglected disease. Name this tongue-twisting disease. **Ans: O'nyong-nyong fever**
Visual: This disease is also called 'rabbit fever'. Symptoms may include fever, skin ulcers, and enlarged lymph nodes. Identify the disease. **Ans: Tularemia**

READER CONNECT INITIATIVE

SIDDARAMAIAH
Quintessential Socialist

'AHINDA' Ramaiah pioneered pro-poor welfare schemes

Siddaramaiah's political ideology emanates from his own experiences in life. 'I know what trials and tribulations the poor face. I have myself experienced those difficulties, he says

Siddaramaiah's political ideology emanates from his own experiences in life. "I know what trials and tribulations the poor face. I have myself experienced those difficulties," he says. His belief in socialism, secularism, and social justice, influenced by Ram Manohar Lohia and D. Devaraj Urs, have motivated him to come up with welfare schemes for the poor. His politics is focused on the welfare and empowerment of the minorities, backward classes, Dalits (AHINDA). "I introduced schemes like Anna Bhagya (providing food grains to the poor for free or at subsidised prices), Ksheera Bhagya (providing milk) and Vidyasiri (providing assistance for education)," says Siddaramaiah who pioneered iconic welfare schemes in his first stint as chief minister.

Providing equal opportunities

Siddaramaiah's commitment towards welfare of underprivileged and oppressed communities - scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and minorities in the society is undisputable.

However, prior to the introduction of the Karnataka Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan 2012-13, these grants were not scientifically distributed and did not reach the desired beneficiaries.

Siddaramaiah takes pride in the fact that it introduced the Karnataka Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2013 to rectify these lapses and also to allocate funds based on the population and to ensure that the grants are utilized for specific purpose of development of these communities.

There is a drastic change in allocation of grants under SCSP/TSP scheme since then. The Budgets presented in the past clearly reflect Siddaramaiah's commitment towards social justice. Social justice is not a political weapon. As per the understanding, social justice means providing equal opportunities and representations to the underprivileged communities.

During first tenure, under Anna Bhagya, 7 K.Gs of free rice for each member of family having BPL card, and 1.08 Cr families benefitted from the scheme.

Under Ksheera Bhagya,150 ml of milk distributed for 5 days a week at free of cost for

children in anganwadi and students studying in Class 1 to Class 10.

Over 1 Cr Children benefitted from the initiative and 51,000 schools and 64,000 Anganwadi centres are covered. Distributed 5 Lakh litres a day through 13 milk unions of KMF.

Incentives to farmers increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per litre of Milk under Ksheera Dhare.

The Milk production increased from 51.66 Lakh ltr/day to 75 Lakh ltr/day. More than 8.5 Lakh dairy farmers were benefitted. Siddaramaiah launched 'Tourist Taxi for SC/ST'.

Under this, SC/SP and TSP or unemployed youth from SC/ST are provided with 3 lakh to purchase taxis and run as tourist taxis. Over 4545 eligible people have availed this scheme since 2013.

All these and many more programmes reflect Siddaramaiah's commitment towards welfare of underprivileged and oppressed communities and provide equal opportunities.

Message from Basavaraj Rayareddi, CM's Finance Advisor & MLA of Yalaburga

Extending my congratulations to your visionary leadership, which is effectively carrying forward Karnataka's rich legacy of social justice and people-centric, inclusive development.

The political history of the state is marked by a golden tradition shaped by the resolute struggles of great leaders who upheld the values of people-oriented governance, social justice, and constitutional equality. Karnataka's progressive political culture has grown under leaders who courageously stood for the oppressed, the backward classes, and communities at the margins of society.

Among the great leaders who left an indelible mark on this tradition, the late Sri Devaraj Urs stands foremost. He served as the Chief Minister of Karnataka for a total of 2,792 days, from 20.03.1972 to 31.12.1977 and again from 28.02.1978 to 07.01.1980, and through land reforms, social justice, upliftment of backward classes, and empowerment of the oppressed, he authored an immortal chapter in the political history of the state.

Further, the broad vision and principled leadership of former Chief Ministers Sri Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Sri S. Nijalingappa, and Sri Ramakrishna Hegde, who steered Karnataka toward progressive thinking, continue to remain alive and inspiring even today.

Carrying forward the same legacy of social justice, ideological clarity, political values, and inclusive development in tune with contemporary needs, you have set a new milestone in Karnataka's history.

Serving as Chief Minister from 16.05.2013 to 15.05.2018, and again from 20.05.2023 to the present, you have created a historic record through prolonged and meaningful governance, which is a matter of immense pride for the people of the state. It is my firm belief that you will continue to work for the comprehensive development of the state as its Chief Minister for the next two and a half years, that is, until 28 May 2028.

Your sincere and transparent administration is clearly people-centric, constitutionally grounded, and centered on social justice. With the objective of strengthening the state socially, educationally, and economically, your honest initiatives—without discrimination of religion or caste—through schemes such as Anna Bhagya, Ksheera Bhagya, Vidyasiri, Indira Canteen, Shakti, Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Yuva Nidhi, and ambitious programmes for the farming community, have played a vital role in providing economic security and social dignity to the poor, women, workers, students, and youth.

These initiatives reflect a firm political resolve to shape Karnataka into a true welfare state. Transparency in governance, fiscal discipline, unwavering commitment to constitutional values, and inclusive politics that unite people beyond caste, religion, and language stand out as the distinctive hallmarks of your leadership.

Your continuous efforts to uphold social equality by embracing the philosophy of Basava, and your identification as a follower of Basava, stand as testimony to your casteless and inclusive outlook.

Your life, spanning more than five decades of struggle as a voice for the ideology of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, serves as a guiding light for future generations.

It is certain that history will honour you as a capable leader who has given contemporary political expression to a socially committed and progressive vision.

Siddaramaiah's Iconic Welfare Programmes...

Siddaramaiah's people-centric initiatives have earned accolades from various quarters. They also helped the State achieve all-round growth.

Pashu Bhagya

Initiative to help small and marginal farmers establish cattle, goat, sheep, pig and poultry units

Back ended subsidy of 50 per cent will be given to farmers belonging to SC and ST categories and 25 per cent to other small and marginal farmers.

Farmers can avail loan up to Rs. 1.2 lakhs from commercial banks.

Out of the total allocation, 30 per cent has been reserved for women

Short term loans of up to Rs. 50,000 can be availed at zero per cent interest from co-operative banks for buying cattle feed and other maintenance related expenditures.

Krishi Bhagya

1.93 Lakh farm ponds constructed

2,460 polyhouses installed

More than 6.2 lakh acres of land irrigated

Rs. 1920.82 Cr have been spent under this program

As per study conducted by State Agricultural Universities, farmers have witnessed 34-77% yield improvements under this program

Krishi Yanthradhare

335 centres have been set up in PPP model

8.16 lakh farmers have rented machineries

Farm Mechanisation

Rs. 1654.66 Cr have been spent under farm mechanisation

14,69,044 famers have availed financial assistance to buy farm machinery

Runamukta

A one-time loan waiver scheme

10.18 lakh people belonging to the scheduled caste/ Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, as well as those belonging to the minority communities were freed from their old loans.

Rs. 394.47 Cr of loan waived

Vidyasiri

2 Lakh Beneficiaries

Incentive of Rs. 1500 per month for students who did not get government hostel

Mythri

A monthly pension of Rs. 500 for Gender Minorities in the state

Pension uncreased to Rs. 600 in 2018 budget

Manaswini

80,000 Women benefitted

Unmarried, abandoned and divorce women to receive a monthly pension of Rs. 500

Pension increased to Rs. 600 in 2018 budget

Pure Drinking Water

The scheme of providing low cost potable drinking water is to improve health of villagers is the most popular programme

During the past four years, totally 9155 pure water dispensing units are undertaken providing potable drinking water to more than One crore people

208 multi village schemes are completed

2873 habitations. 12,306 schools and 21,454 Anganavadies also provided with pure drinking water during this period

Matrupoorna

One Nutritious, Hot Meal Every Day for Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers

Hot & Nutritious meal, from the start of Pregnancy to 6 Months after Delivery

Antenatal & Postnatal Care with IFA, Calcium Supplements & Deworming

Meal includes Hot full meal, egg, milk and chikki

More than 8.68 lakh women

benefitted. Rs. 45.56 Cr spent

Dasoha

Free food grains will be distributed to welfare institutes like nariniketans, old age homes, schools for blinds, hostels for poor students, Beggars Rehabilitation centres, etc., on the lines of the Annabhagya scheme.

Indira Canteen

One "Indira Canteen" each for 198 wards of Bangalore's BBMP wards started.

Hot, Healthy and Hygienic breakfast for Rs. 5. Lunch and Dinner for Rs. 10.

To serve the people in the city with low incomes looking for affordable meals.

Extended to all taluk and district headquarters with population more than 1 lakh.

Anila bhagya

Free gas connection and stove to 30 lakh eligible poor families under this scheme.

The scheme was launched to make the state a PDS kerosene free state

Rs. 1,600 for free gas connection, 2 refills and two burner gas stove at Rs.1000 for each family

Arogya Karnataka

The scheme aims to provide free and cashless medical treatment to around 14 million households in Karnataka.

It will cost the state exchequer around Rs 870 crore.

The scheme will be launched on March 3 and all previous government health schemes such as Vajpayee Arogyashree and Yashaswani will be subsumed into it.

To avail of the scheme, rural households will have to pay Rs 300 per person per year; in urban areas, the figure will be Rs 700 per person per year.

Ganga Kalayana

Providing power connection for the irrigation pump sets for the borewells sunk, for the purpose of agricultural in the lands belonging to SC/ST, backward classes and minorities.

50,267 acres of irrigated land.

Helping 20,107 small and marginal farmers.

Loan Subsidy and Waiver

Government announced zero-interest short-term agricultural loans up to Rs.2.00 lakhs in 2013-14 which was subsequently enhanced to Rs.3 lakhs.

During 2016-17, the loan amount disbursed increased to Rs.11,902 crores covering 23.45 lakh farmers.

In the last 4 1/2 years, 6.74 lakh new farmers have availed Rs.5,352 crores of loans.

The Government, waived off agricultural loans from co-operative institutions amounting to Rs.8,165 crores benefiting 22.27 lakh farmers in 2017-18.

Crop Insurance

Under Karnataka Raita Suraksha, Pradhan Mantri Phasal Bhima Yojane (PMFBY) and Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme, 10.46 lakh farmers availed Crop Insurance.

6.25 lakh farmers received Rs.1,005.96 crores as insurance settlement due to yield shortfall during Kharif 2016

Crop Survey App

Use of mobile technologies in agri survey.

A drive was undertaken to collect photographs of crop along with GPS co-ordinate.

Aadhaar and Mobile details of farmers were also to be collected.

More than 12000 officials of Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and Rural Development Departments are working on the Mobile App developed for this purpose.

Parihara

1st state in the country to transfer input subsidies through 'Parihara' online platform Rs. 1459.1 crores transferred to 21.90 lakh farmers

Soil Health Cards

Better yields can be achieved with better soil and nutrient management.

Government, on its own cost, collected soil samples, tested soils

Issued soil health cards to 78.32 lakh farmers.

Cards contain results for 12 nutrients and recommendations for nutrient application for different crops.

Government ITI

100 new Government ITIs started

Providing skill training to 8400+ candidates.

104 Government Industrial Training Institute buildings are being constructed under NABARD-RIDF 19, 20, 22 and 23, at a cost of Rs. 25500.00 lakh to provide better infrastructure and facilities.

Yuva Yuga

Launched to impart skills to 1,10,000 people

Training will be in IT, Electronics, Animation and other similar sectors

Bhagya Jyothi/ Kuteera Jyothi

Free supply to has been increased from 18 units to 40 units per month.

Niranthara Jyothi Yojane

It is being implemented in 2 phases in 129 taluks.

Out of proposed 1730 Nos 11 KV NJ Feeders, works have been completed in 1697Nos of 11KV NJ Feeders.

Shuchi Scheme

Providing sanitary pad packets free of cost to over 72.7 lakh adolescent girls

Dialysis Centres

Karnataka is the first state in the country to establish dialysis centres at sub-district level hospitals.

So far, Free dialysis has been carried out 1.6 lakh times for 31,561 patients suffering from renal failure.

Govt has established Dialysis Centres at 171 Taluk level Govt hospitals.

Elevate 100

India's first comprehensive entrepreneurship platform

200 startups selected with 40 crores boost to support and scale up their projects covering Semiconductor Design, Life Sciences, Biotech, Agri Tech, Animation, Gaming, Clean Tech, and IT/ITES

Raita Sarathi

Started in July 2017 by the Transport Department with a budget of 2 crore.

The scheme offers driving lessons to farmers and provides them with driving license and awareness on rules and regulations at the end of the course.

The main focus is tractor trailer training, with the benefit of audio video CD's training modules; for ease of training.

Till December 2017, 12,818 Learning license and 4300 driving license had been issued.

Registered vehicle owners and their drivers can avail the scheme.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of typhoid fever cases in India in 2023

49 in lakh. Delhi, Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for nearly 30% of the national burden. Findings published in *The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia* also show that six lakh of the 7.3 lakh hospitalisations across the country were attributable to fluoroquinolone-resistance, a type of antibiotic, or antimicrobial, resistance. PTI

Value of Uttar Pradesh government allocation for school events

19.8 In ₹ crore. The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated Rs 19.8 crore to organise Annual Day and Sports Day programmes. The initiative aims to promote enrolment and attendance along with the all-round development of children by linking academics with culture, sports and community participation. PTI

Quantity of high-grade heroin seized near Indo-Myanmar border

7.3 In kilograms. The Narcotics Control Bureau seized 7.3 kg of high-grade heroin during an operation near the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur and arrested two alleged traffickers. The contraband, concealed in over 600 soap cases, was recovered from a vehicle intercepted by NCB teams. ANI

Increase in average assets of MPs between 2014 and 2024

110 in per cent. Between 2014 and 2024, 102 MPs who got re-elected to the Lok Sabha recorded an over 100% average growth in their assets, said a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms. It said average asset growth for the MPs between the Lok Sabha elections of 2014 to 2024 is ₹17.36 crore. PTI

Total amount locked in customs duty disputes

1.52 In ₹ lakh crore. With over ₹1.52 lakh crore of customs duty locked in litigations, the government could look at the possibility of an amnesty scheme in the Budget for 2026-27, Price Waterhouse & Co said on Thursday. As of March 2024, 38,014 cases are locked in litigation. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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ISRO and the next big challenge

ISRO's past accomplishments raise the bar for future missions as it prepares in parallel for more complex programmes; the next phase depends less on individual feats and more on sustained institutional performance, clearer legal structures, and the capacity to execute ambitious missions in a routine way

FULL CONTEXT

Vasudevan Mukunth

The record of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) over the last decade has been remarkably broad for an agency of its size and budget.

Its rockets, especially the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), have sustained reliable access to orbit, rendering operations with multiple satellite classes almost a matter of routine today. And ISRO is attempting even more technically demanding missions. The soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander on the moon on August 23, 2023, placed India in a coterie of countries with demonstrated lunar-landing capability.

The Aditya-L1 probe reached its intended halo orbit around the first sun-earth Lagrange point on January 6, 2024, adding a dedicated solar observatory mission to ISRO's portfolio. In July 2025, ISRO executed a prominent international collaboration by launching the billion-dollar NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, an earth-observation platform for climate and hazard monitoring.

On track: The LVM-3 launch vehicle at Sriharikota ahead of its M6 mission to launch the BlueBird Block-2 satellite on December 24, 2025. ISRO

Preparing in parallel

The thing about succeeding in such a consistent way is that it also raises the bar for future accomplishments. It no longer matters that ISRO had humble beginnings or that it transported parts of its first rocket on a bullock cart. Even launching the PSLV or the GSLV flawlessly the first dozen or so times is awesome, but being able to do that also changes what comes next. And it will be good for ISRO to be able to access that new opportunity space, and without taking too long to do so. Otherwise, it will have some difficult questions to answer.

Today, on the cusp of Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), among others, ISRO's major challenges can be distilled to three: (i) its capacity to execute more complex missions; (ii) questions about how clearly the space programme is and can be governed in a newly liberalised sector; and (iii) constraints on ISRO's competitiveness that are as industrial and financial as they're technological.

First, ISRO currently confronts a deceptively structural prioritisation problem. Specifically, as the organisation prepares in parallel for the human spaceflight mission, complex science missions, satellite replenishment, and the development of NGLV, a more powerful launch vehicle (GSLV may be 'Bahubali' but it's still only in the medium-lift category), its annual launch cadence and project timelines have become an increasingly obvious bottleneck. Experts have linked its low number of launches in 2025 – only five against the then ISRO chairman V. Somanath's projection of an also-low eight – to project delays and to the organisation shifting towards big-ticket programmes. At the same time, private launch providers still depend heavily on ISRO facilities and infrastructure, meaning the system can't yet offload work at scale. The implication is that when a mission suffers an anomaly, it has cascading effects.

To prevent this ISRO needs more integration capacity, better access to test stands, industrial supply chains for structures and avionics, and a workflow that can absorb setbacks without freezing unrelated programmes or cramping their timelines. Perhaps the first step could be an internal scheme to help scientists and engineers determine which mission's timelines are allowed to slip and for what particular reasons, together with separate resource allocations for R&D vehicles and operational vehicles and creating new capacity in the industrial base. The ultimate aim should be for ISRO to not simultaneously be the designer, the integrator, and the bottleneck for all missions.

ISRO pulled in

Second, ISRO's role in India's liberalised space and spaceflight ecosystem – since the national government's 2020 reforms – is conceptually clear only on paper. The principal issue here is that India still lacks a comprehensive national space law. The Indian Space Policy framework, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and New Space India Ltd. (NSIL), created in 2019-2020, were meant to separate functions. Research and advanced capability development would lie with ISRO, authorisation and promotion with IN-SPACe, and commercialisation with NSIL.

But for all of them to execute those functions efficiently, they need statutory authority and clearer legal allocations of obligations, especially those pertaining to authorisation, liability, insurance, and resolving disputes.

A national space law wouldn't merely help startups: it would also protect ISRO by reducing the *ad hoc* demands placed on it because it's still perceived as a fallback regulator and technical certifier for everything. If IN-SPACe is to be the authorising body, it needs to have legal authority. If NSIL is to be the commercial arm, it shouldn't be in a situation where, if a commercial mission fails, creates third-party liabilities or whatever, nobody can say in advance who is responsible for what, leaving ISRO to be pulled in by 'default' because it's the most capable state actor. And if ISRO is to focus on frontier capabilities, it needs to be insulated from routine tasks, like booking and operating test stands or coordinating spectrum allocation, that actually should be performed by an industrial and regulatory ecosystem.

Finally, like most laws, a space law – and thus the activities it supports – would also survive political and administrative changes.

Sustained performance

Third, ISRO's competitiveness increasingly resembles an ecosystem problem. The world is moving towards more frequent launches by providers, partially reusable launch vehicles, and rapid satellite manufacturing, and India needs to respond with more than by expanding its engineering ambitions. The Indian government's own framing of the NGLV, linking the space programme's future goals to its "high payload capability" and "reusability", including a reusable first stage and the ability to lift up to 30 tonnes to low-earth orbit, acknowledges that economic launches and agility are now central, rather than optional, features of enterprises that operate launch vehicles. And building such systems and operating them in turn requires more production depth, advanced manufacturing capabilities, higher qualification capacity, and much more capital.

Investment in India's space sector fell sharply in 2024, reflecting both global headwinds and the specific difficulties of financing hardware that's developed and deployed on long horizons. IN-SPACe has in response launched a technology adoption fund aimed at helping firms bridge prototypes with scalable products and at reducing import dependence, among other funding instruments.

ISRO's past accomplishments have earned it political capital and public trust but the next phase depends less on individual feats and more on sustained institutional performance. The capacity to execute will determine whether the Indian space programme will also be able to deliver ambitious missions in a routine way. And within this context, governance and law will say whether the government's efforts to liberalise the sector will reduce ISRO's burden or, counterintuitively, expand it. Similarly ISRO's ability to compete will depend on whether the programme can transition from executing a series of individually laudable missions to being an industrial system, and for this engineering, regulation, manufacturing, and finance will have to mature together.

THE GIST

- ISRO's consistent success raises the bar for future accomplishments as it prepares in parallel for human spaceflight, complex science missions, satellite replenishment, and the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle.
- In a newly liberalised space sector, the absence of a comprehensive national space law leaves ISRO pulled in by default, even as clearer legal allocations of authorisation, liability, and commercial responsibility are required to insulate it from routine tasks.
- The transition from individual feats to sustained institutional performance depends on competitiveness that is as industrial and financial as it is technological, requiring production depth, advanced manufacturing, and an ecosystem that allows missions to become routine.

Yuva Nidhi: 48,000 graduates registered

Owing to lack of necessary skills and other reasons, Karnataka is seeing an increase in unemployment in the engineering sector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of students during an enrolment drive of Yuva Nidhi scheme. THE HINDU

The unemployment in the engineering sector is increasing in the State due to lack of necessary skills and other reasons and this year, around 48,000 engineering graduates have registered under the Yuva Nidhi scheme.

Financial benefits

Of the total 3.79 lakh registered till date under the scheme, as many as 2.98 lakh were eligible for financial benefits. Of these, there are a total of 43,529 engineering graduates, 374 engineering postgraduates, and 4,250 diploma-engineering candidates.

Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil, sharing the details on Thursday, said the number of non-engineering graduates enrolled under the scheme include Arts, Science, Commerce, Management graduates- 3,00,214 - and non-engineering postgraduates registered were 27,843. "Out of about 1 lakh engineering graduates who pass out every year, only about 20 to 25,000 candidates get jobs. The increasing unemployment in the engineering sector is a matter of concern. The government is providing skill training to the candidates registered under the Yuva Nidhi scheme. But out of this, about 90% of the candidates are not turning up for skill training," the Minister said.

Letter to companies

Dr. Patil gave an open offer to corporate companies to start skill training centers in government and private engineering colleges. "Bajaj has started a skill training centre at PES University and is already providing training to engineering graduates. TATA has taken steps to start a training center at R.V. Engineering college. If corporate companies come forward to start training centers in any government and private colleges in the State, necessary infrastructure will be provided. In addition, if they provide training to the candidates selected by the government, the training expenses will be released to the companies as soon as they get jobs," he added.

The Minister said that the government is setting up multi-level skill training centres in Kalaburagi, Talakal of Koppal district, and Mysuru to train Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries. "Despite the government being ready to spend on them, the candidates are not ready to attend the training. We have tried to reach out to them through messages and calls, but there is no response. There might be an opinion that financial assistance will be stopped during training. However, we have clarified several times that it will not be discontinued unless they get placed and for two years," he said.

According to data, ₹27 crore set aside for the Yuva Nidhi training purpose was not utilised in 2025. The department has now decided to increase the target with the combined funds of 2025 and 2026.

Yuva Nidhi scheme registration details

- Non-engineering graduates (Arts, Science, Commerce, Management and others): 3,00,214
- Non-engineering postgraduates (Arts, Science, Commerce, Management and others): 27,843
- Engineering graduates: 43,529
- Engineering postgraduates: 374
- Diploma-engineering: 4,250
- Diploma-others: 2,870
- Total registered: 3,79,080

Yuva Nidhi Expenditure

Total beneficiaries (DBT)	Expenditure
2,98,316	₹874.17 crore

Gadgil played key role in setting up CES

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Madhav Gadgil

Renowned ecologist Madhav Gadgil, who passed away in Pune on Wednesday night, was closely associated with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. He helped establish the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) in 1983.

"The CES was born out of ecological research initiated at the Centre for Theoretical Studies by Madhav Gadgil, who joined the then Centre for Theoretical Studies (CTS) in 1973, having obtained a PhD in biology at Harvard University with a thesis in Mathematical Ecology. Gadgil pursued research in both theoretical biology and field ecology," the CES stated on its website.

The CES said that Gadgil initiated field studies at the newly established Bandipur Tiger Reserve in 1974 on the dry deciduous forest ecosystem dotted with man-made ponds and extensive open areas covered with grass.

"Gadgil conducted an ecological reconnaissance of this whole tract and formulated a proposal for the establishment of a large nature reserve in this region. This eventually led to the establishment of the country's first biosphere reserve, the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in 1986. Elephants were a striking component of the wildlife of this tract, and Gadgil organised the first census of wild elephants in the country in these areas," the CES stated.

It also stated that, in 1974, when there was an agitation by the basket-weavers of Karnataka contending that their livelihood was threatened by overuse and exhaustion of bamboo resources by paper mills, the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology asked Gadgil to look into the ecology and management of bamboo resources of the State.

About Gadgil, Minister for Forest Eshwar Khandre, offering his condolences, said, "He (Gadgil) always expressed his concern about the gradual destruction of the hilly areas of the Western Ghats, which is the source of many rivers, apart from being an oxygen reservoir and also helps in blocking the monsoon winds, and, in turn, brings rains across the country."

Respected, yet some viewed Gadgil's report with doubt

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGGA

File photo of Madhav Gadgil visiting Western Ghats area near Sakleshpur in Hassan district in 2010, as head of the Western Ghats Ecology Experts Panel.

Ecologist Madhav Gadgil, who passed away on Wednesday, had a special connection with people and activists of the Malnad region at the foothills of the Western Ghats due to his research and recommendations regarding the conservation of the hill ranges. He also had his fair share of detractors, who saw his report as detrimental to their livelihood or against their interests.

L.K. Sreepathi, a retired professor of an engineering college and actively involved in the struggle against the Sharavati Pumped Storage Project, said Gadgil was the pillar for the movement for conservation of the Western Ghats. "His death is a loss to the struggles against destruction of the Western Ghats. He spent many of his professional years studying the Western Ghats. And his recommendations were unique. He never advocated eviction of people who have been part of the Ghats for ages, even while recommending conservation measures," he opined.

Mr. Sripathi stated that Gadgil spent innumerable days walking in the forests and staying with the local people. "He named his autobiography *A Walk Up The Hill: Living with People and Nature*. The title mentions the people because he stayed with them during his research and had the food they offered him," he said.

Detractors galore

Akhilesh Chipli, an activist based in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga, said the country has lost a great ecologist, who had studied the Western Ghats deeply and submitted a report for its conservation. His findings and recommendations were the basis for arguments of many activists fighting against ill-designed projects in the Malnad region, he said.

Many people who did not approve of his report saw him in a different light. His report was deeply contested by those whose livelihoods depended on the Western Ghats and its resources. There were also those who disliked the Gadgil report because it went against their intent of looting the wealth of the Western Ghats for their avarice.

"Some people commented that he (Gadgil) prepared the report in his chamber, without visiting the field, which was not true. He was a scientist and researcher who spent several years on field study. Unfortunately, the people in rule opposed his report and eventually constituted another committee to dilute his report," Mr. Chipli argued.

H.A. Kishor Kumar of Maland Janapara Vedike in Hassan recalled the days when Madhav Gadgil visited the villages of Sakleshpur taluk as head of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel. "He visited the villages around Hongada Halla in Sakleshpur as part of the group. He interacted with the local people, and we all had lunch together at our home. He was a good listener and encouraged questions during our interactions. He responded to my mail until recently," said Mr. Kishor. He felt that Gadgil's report on the Western Ghats and his recommendations were suitable for the conservation of the area. However, the High Level Working Group, headed by K. Kasturirangan, "diluted" the recommendations of Gadgil. "We still argue for the implementation of Gadgil's report for the conservation of the Western Ghats," he said.

Opposition to report

After the Gadgil report on Western Ghats became available to the public in 2012, many elected governments and people opposed it. They were unhappy with declaring it an ESZ, restricting the activities. Considering the opposition, the MoEF formed a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under K. Kasturirangan in August 2012 to examine the WGEEP report. It submitted its report on April 15, 2013, which again attracted widespread criticism and objection. 'The committee recommended that 37% of the total area of the Ghats be declared as an ecologically sensitive area. It included 20,668 sq km in Karnataka, spanning over 1,576 villages of 10 districts. The MoEF&CC issued six draft notifications on the ESA.

Gadgil was opposed to proposals of the HLWG, and he wrote an open letter to Dr. Kasturirangan which was published in *The Hindu* on May 18, 2013.

Kalkuli Vittal Hegde, a farmer-activist based in Sringeri of Chikkamagaluru, said that Gadgil was an environmentalist with genuine concern for conserving the environment. "However, we the people in our region, were opposed to his views on conserving the Western Ghats," he said.

The scientist in his report disregarded the environmentalism that forest dwellers had been following for generations.

"The local people lived in the forests without causing damage. Declaring the region as ESZ would take away their livelihood; hence, we questioned his report and raised objections," he said.

State Film Awards: Filmmaker M.S. Sathyu honoured with Puttanna Kanagal Award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lifetime Achievement Awards as part of the Karnataka State Film Awards 2020 and 2021 were announced on Thursday. Renowned filmmaker and theatre personality M.S. Sathyu was honoured with the Puttanna Kanagal Award for the year 2020.

Actor-politician Jaimala, who has an experience of over 50 years in the film industry, was named for the Dr. Rajkumar Award. Veteran still photographer Pragathi Ashwath Narayana was picked for the Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award.

For the year 2021, Sa. Ra. Govindu, producer and former Karnataka State Film Chamber for Commerce (KFCC) president, was honoured with the Dr. Rajkumar Award.

Director K. Shivarudraiah was named for the Puttanna Kanagal Award, while actor-producer M.K. Sundar Raj was given the Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 09	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:09
RISE 23:39	SET 11:09
SATURDAY, JAN. 10	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:10
RISE 00:00	SET 11:45
SUNDAY, JAN. 11	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:10
RISE 00:26	SET 12:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	27	16
Bengaluru	25	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Free training centre opened

BENGALURU Bengaluru City University on Thursday inaugurated MARGA, a free Civil Services Examination Training Centre. The initiative aims to support students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds.

Purushottam Bilimale, Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority, lauded the initiative for promoting skill development and competitive exam readiness.

Jaysingpur Municipal Council, Jaysingpur (M.S.)
Municipal Office, Jaysingpur
E-Tender Notice 2026

JNP/C.D/E-Tender Notice/5142/2026 **Date - 08/01/2026**

Jaysingpur Municipal Council invites E-Tender for construction of compound wall & Elevation treatement work at Jaysingpur Municipal Council Building at Jaysingpur. Tal - Shirol, Dist - Kolhapur, State- Maharashtra. For more details kindly visit **http://mahatenders.gov.in** from **Date - 09/01/2026, 11.00 A.M. upto Date-16/01/2026, 4.00 P.M.**

Sd/-
Chief Officer,
Jaysingpur Municipal Council

Sd/-
President,
Jaysingpur Muncipal Council

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No.SGITO/e-Tender/Books(01)/Bus(48)/2025-26 Date:.06-01-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for The Following:-

(1) Supply of Medical Books and Journals
(2) Procurement of College bus

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **09-01-2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through kpp portal is **27-01-2026** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/SI/4933/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/4059 CMIDP/ 3054 SH/MDR/2025-26/3123 Date: 06.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3/4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 11 Works)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **14-01-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **16-01-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **17-01-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **19-01-2026 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/932/25-26 Dt.08.01.2026

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–ಮೈಸೂರು ಇನ್‌ಫ್ರಾಸ್ಟ್ರಕ್ಚರ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ನಂ. 5, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಲೂಪ್‌ಲೇನ್, ರೇಸ್‌ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 009.
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: bmicapa@gmail.com, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: –080–22341230 / 35

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಎಪಿಎ/ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–01–2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-ಮೈಸೂರು ಇನ್‌ಫ್ರಾಸ್ಟ್ರಕ್ಚರ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ವಸತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ/ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು / ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು / ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ,** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ (ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ) ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2016 ರಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.01.2026.**

ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನವಿರುವ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನದ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಉಪನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ) ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಹೋಬಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನದ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಚ. ಮೀ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಉಪ –ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ ಪ್ರತಿ ಚ.ಮೀ. ಗೆ)	ಉದ್ದೇಶ
1	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಿ.ಎಂ. ಕಾವಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮ	123/5	618.03	ರೂ. 18,480	ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ
2	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ತಾವರೆಕೆರೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡೇರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ	11/6	545.25	ರೂ. 13,500	ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ ಕೇಂದ್ರ (ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ)
3	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ರಾಚನಮಡು ಗ್ರಾಮ	11/3	777.01	ರೂ. 13,860	ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯ (ಹಾಸ್ಟಲ್)
4	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಕಾವಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಚನಮಡು ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಕಾವಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ 103/1 ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ, ರಾಚನಮಡು ಗ್ರಾಮ 15/2 ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ	2230.35	ರೂ. 26,400	ಡೈರಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ
5	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಕಾವಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಚನಮಡು ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಕಾವಲ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ 103/1 ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ, ರಾಚನಮಡು ಗ್ರಾಮ 15/2 ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ	1383.03	ರೂ. 26,400	ಡೈರಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಐ.ಸಿ.ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/RO4935/AAPL/2025-26

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

'*Avatar: Fire and Ash*': militarised spectacle, render farms, and the end of awe

A gleaming tech miracle wrapped around a hollow soul, *Fire and Ash* feels meticulously engineered and spiritually abandoned; characters like Spider and Kiri become overworked narrative tools, and the film wraps itself in environmental rhetoric while staging obliteration

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

I dragged myself through Delhi's air, body frozen, throat stinging, visibility dropping to philosophical levels of nothingness; all to arrive at the earliest screening of *Avatar: Fire and Ash*. James Cameron greeted these Sisyphean efforts by flinging a flaming monolith of 3D garbage straight at my face. It's perverse, really, having had to wade through literal poison to sit through blockbuster poison. One would think wheezing through dense radioactive smog could prepare you for anything, but witnessing this billion-dollar landfill blaze made me slowly asphyxiate for over three hours within the confines of my theatre.

A still from *Avatar: Fire and Ash*. AP

Bloated spectacle

For three hours and change, Pandora feels meticulously engineered and spiritually abandoned. Cameron once made films that felt like dispatches from the future, but this third chapter in his endlessly self-impressed saga has lumbered back with renewed conviction, obsessed with square footage and intoxicated by its own gigantism. Bloated with money, myth, technology, and a palpable fear of irrelevance, everything is bigger, louder, and longer in *Fire and Ash*. Everything is also airless.

The grief that opens the film promises depth. Eternal marine cosplayer turned reluctant indigenous patriarch, Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), mourns his dead son from the earlier, Way of Water. Zoe Saldana's Neytiri rages with an unquenchable hatred and her entire emotional architecture is built around the same loss. Their children orbit between resentment and devotion. The premise suggests that the saga is finally ready to sit in its wounds, but the reality is a parade of plot machinery, stitched out of guilt, revenge, an almost voyeuristic appropriation of indigenous mysticism, and a mercenary belief in "family" as a substitute for meaningful ideas. Cameron gestures toward some semblance of emotional excavation, only to safely retreat to the comforts of prolonged migraine-inducing 3D battles and sporadic bouts of ritual chanting.

The franchise's grand metaphor has always been colonialism refracted through its luminous fauna and noble warrior spirituality, but *Fire and Ash* strains to deepen that. Humans and Na'vi entangle across biology, psychology, loyalty, and trauma. Power wants resources, power wants bodies, power wants belonging. There's still some genuine material here, especially in the uneasy bond between Quaritch and Jake, two military men doomed to reenact their masculinity as their destiny. Yet, Cameron seems perfectly satisfied with surface-level clarities of speechifying heroes and flattened political spectacle.

Characters speak as if locked inside a studio focus test, ripe with the contrasts of mystical platitudes and dudebro catchphrases. It's evident that the performers were labouring under digital lacquer, capable of nuance but trapped inside dramaturgy designed for blunt interpretation.

Plot machinery

Jack Champion's Spider is the film's most overworked narrative utility tool. The film continuously positions him as the emotional hinge between species – the biological son of Quaritch, the adopted son of Jake's family, and the human permanently out of place on Pandora. Instead of developing him as a psychologically coherent being, Cameron keeps repurposing him as whatever the plot needs in that moment, whether it's a hostage, bargaining chip, test subject, guilt trigger or even the occasional oxygen hazard. His literal dependence on a breathing apparatus becomes a metaphor in the most on-the-nose way possible, until the film simply decides to rewrite biology and grants him a miraculous, lore-breaking evolutionary upgrade via Eywa and mycelial plant magic.

Kiri (Sigourney Weaver), meanwhile, stands at the intersection of Cameron's heady ambitions and clumsy storytelling. As the inexplicable child of Grace Augustine's avatar body, she is supposed to embody Pandora's spiritual mystery and ecological theology. The mythology frames her as the living bridge between Eywa's consciousness and Na'vi's existence, but the writing reduces that enormity to soft-focus mysticism and conveniently-timed deus ex machinas.

Both Spider and Kiri are built to carry the trilogy's salvageable themes of hybridity and mutated identity, and both ultimately reveal how Cameron prefers shortcuts and gimmicks over any nuance.

There's also the new Mangkwan, the heretic Ash People. The film practically shivers with pleasure when they arrive, and Oona Chapman's electrifying turn as their Tsahik Varang storms the screen with an erotic sense of authority – perhaps the film's sole saving grace. Though she should be the great new engine of chaos and ideology, she's soon drafted into Cameron's preferred function as a catalyst for more setpieces.

Violent bond

The most interesting dynamic in the film is her seductively violent bond with Quaritch. There are traces of Sean Penn's oily Colonel Lockjaw from *One Battle After Another* in how briskly this emblem of military-industrial cruelty turns his genocidal obsession into a fetish for the people his ideology defines as target practice. Cameron frames him as a creature of rage discovering kink through ethnocide, and the film feels bizarrely exhilarated by the revelation. Stephen Lang chews into the role with a feral gleam.

Cameron has spent the better part of the last decade selling the world on how his saga explores the tangled braids between human violence and ecological reverence, but *Fire and Ash* is fascinated with punishment, purification, and cleansing through violence. The script keeps genuflecting to Eywa, the Great Cosmic Mum, while clearly getting its kicks choreographing annihilation.

What's especially hilarious is watching a billion-dollar "anti-imperialist epic" manufactured by the world's most ruthless entertainment empire try to moralise. *Fire and Ash* wraps itself in environmental preservation rhetoric and sings hymns to indigenous resilience, only to settle for exquisitely staged obliteration. Cameron preaches sanctimonious balance with one hand and cranks the industrialised spectacle of righteous slaughter with the other. This is cinema as an absolution ritual of sorts, and I think we are supposed to feel spiritually clean after witnessing three hours of eco-friendly carnage, ethically sourced through cutting-edge VFX.

The immaculacy of the technology admires itself so endlessly, while any meaningful pulses are pulverised under a stack of a million render farms. The relentless rhythm of the spectacle numbed me into an unskippable lull instead of enrapturing me with its excesses.

Cameron remains a virtuoso of large-scale movement, yet the splendours of ships buckling, creatures convulsing and landscapes shimmering with impossible light rarely translate into any palpable sense of awe. Action came in waves so frequent and so structurally similar that the sense of escalation dissolved completely into repetition. There is always another chase, ambush, or noble sacrifice rendered with military-grade solemnity, and the franchise's devotion to the '*Avatar* experience' has curdled into obligation.

Avatar has always sold itself as the populist four-quadrant morality play where extraction capitalism gets an easy-to-read villain and indigeneity becomes an all-purpose spiritual solvent, all pre-packaged to clap to in IMAX. The 2009 film worked with a familiar "outsider becomes native messiah" trope à la *Dune*, in a supposedly anti-imperial allegory, then spent the next decade witnessing it collapse into the very paternalism it claims to expose. The *Way of Water* tried to update the critique by widening the map and swapping jungle romanticism for ocean ethnography, yet the same ideological "difference" gets aestheticised, and the films' faith in innocence-through-nature keeps edging into a romantic primitivism that simply cannot be isolated from the white colonial lens through which it is conceived.

It's quite frankly nauseating watching a billionaire filmmaker sermonise on indigenous self-determination from within a studio apparatus lubricated by public subsidies and global capital; a system that, in the same historical breath, bankrolls military dominance and ongoing ethnic erasures while his films launder extraction and conquest into a smug, export-ready moral fantasy.

The larger-than-life theatricality of a blockbuster once promised wonder, provocation, communion, or at the very least a lingering aftertaste, but *Fire and Ash* is a resignation to the fact that a beautiful void, scaled up to planetary size, is now enough.

The spectacle is nothing more than a sedative, and Cameron's lofty ambitions had long stopped growing somewhere between the second and third billion dollars. Not even Eywa herself could resurrect my will to live after inhaling this premium Na'avi sludge. There's a more fitting alternative title here, involving fire and a crude homophonic body part best left implied.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"You look really happy. What's the reason?"

"Sujatha paid me a compliment today. She said that the Principal likes me very much because I am his yes-man."

Being somebody's yes-man is no compliment."

"It isn't?"

"No. A yes-man is someone who says yes to everything his leader/boss says."

"In other words, he agrees with everything that the person says?"

"That's right."

"I don't think I'm that kind of person."

"I hope you're not. Politicians surround themselves with yes-men."

"Are you your boss's yes-man?"

"No."

"Can I say Tony Blair is Bill Clinton's yes-man?"

"That's a very good example. I don't know if everyone will agree with you though."

"Isn't it sad what's happening in Yugoslavia? First Clinton bombs Sudan, then Iraq and now Yugoslavia."

"And if we are not careful, he might poke his nose into our affairs as well."

"What does it mean?"

"When you poke your nose into something, you interfere in something that is no concern of yours. Of late, Bill Clinton has been poking his nose into everything."

"After all, for nearly four years, Kenneth Starr has been poking his nose into Clinton's affairs."

"That's true. By the way, poke your nose into something is an informal expression."

"And what do I call people who poke their noses into other people's business?"

"People who are over inquisitive or very curious about other people are often called nosey'. The word can be spelt n..o..s..e..y or n..o..s..y."

"My uncle becomes unbearably nosey at times."

"Nosey people are sometimes referred to as nosey parkers. I don't want Gayathri in my department. She is a real nosy parker."

"When Surendran walked into the office, people stopped talking. He has a reputation for being a nosey parker."

"Do you think I am a nosey parker?"

"Of course you are!"

"Why you....."

"...just joking. But NATO seems to be full of nosey parkers."

"I'm not so sure about that. You see right now there is no NATO. America is NATO. The remaining countries are merely yes-men. May be the name should be changed from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to Nosey American Tin God Organisation."

"Tin God?"

"Look it up in the dictionary."

"I will. Do you think Clinton will poke his nose into China's affairs?"

"Clinton will keep his nose clean as far as China is concerned."

"Keep his nose clean?"

"When someone tells you to keep your nose clean, it means they want you to stay out of trouble."

"My coupes keeps warning her son Dinesh that if he doesn't keep his nose clean, he is going to end up in jail. Does that sound ok?"

"It certainly does. Now tell me, what else did Sujatha tell you?"

"...look who is being a nosey parker now!"

Published in The Hindu on April 6, 1999

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on influential figures and key events that happened on January 9

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

This American President was born on this day in 1913. His second term ended early when he had to resign from office as a result of the Watergate scandal. Who was he?

QUESTION 2

This American actor is considered one of the most prolific and well-established character actors of his generation. He won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for playing an abusive jazz instructor in Whiplash. Who is he?

QUESTION 3

Mahmoud Abbas, who was born on this day, was elected President of this country in 2005. He is still serving as the President of the country. Name the country.

QUESTION 4

In 2001, Apple introduced this digital media player application that revolutionised the way music was listened to across the world. Which was this?

Visual Question:

Identify this New Zealand writer who was an important figure in the modernist movement. She died on this day in 1923. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name her groundbreaking critique of patriarchy, often regarded as foundational feminist literature, which was listed on the Vatican's 'index of forbidden books'. **Ans: The Second Sex**

2. Name her work depicting the attempts of post-Second World War intellectuals to leave their 'educated elite' status and engage in political activism, which won her the French literary prize Prix Goncourt. **Ans: The Mandarins**

3. What is the only play written by Beauvoir? **Ans: The Useless Mouths (or Who Shall Die)**

4. Name her treatise published in 1947, which deals with themes including freedom, oppression, and responsibility, expounding on the idea that 'human freedom requires the freedom of others for it to be actualised'. **Ans: The ethics of ambiguity**

5. Name her novel, which opens with the quote: "Each conscience seeks the death of the other" from another philosopher, Hegel. **Ans: She came to stay**

Visual: Name this American philosopher who claims to have based her theory of gender performance on Beauvoir's idea that one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman. **Ans: Judith Butler**

Early Birds: Dodo Jayaditya | Sadia Najam | Neil Lall | Sunil Madhavan | Mohan Lal Patel

Word of the day

Clampdown:
sudden restriction on an activity

Synonyms: curb, quash, suppress

Usage: *There was a clampdown on illegal activities.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/clampdownrpo

International Phonetic Alphabet: /klæmpdaʊn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Domestic Workers' Rights Union condemns defamatory ad by house-help platform

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Domestic Workers' Rights Union has condemned an ad campaign by an on-demand house-help provider, which reportedly claims that "three out of 10 maids have done some form of crime".

"We strongly condemn the criminalisation and public shaming of domestic workers and fearmongering about them through irresponsible advertisements by platforms such as BookMyBai, which frame an entire workforce as potential criminals to promote paid 'verification' services," said a statement.

Sweeping claims like "three out of 10 maids have done some form of crime" are not supported by peer-reviewed data, comparative evidence, or transparent methodology. Such assertions are not public safety measures but marketing strategies built on class fear, gendered stigma, and inequality, said the union.

Noting that background verification in itself is not problematic, the union pointed out that the problem lies in its implementation and framing.

"Ethical framing would centre on fair hiring, fair wages, mutual safety, due process, and dignified work for all. What this campaign instead communicates is, Be afraid of domestic workers. Pay us to protect yourself," the statement read, which criticised that such behaviour crosses an ethical and moral line.

The union called for immediate withdrawal of misleading and stigmatising advertisements, accountability from platforms that publish unverified accusations, legal scrutiny of discriminatory hiring practices and online platforms and mandatory registration and regulation of all placement agencies and online platforms engaged in the recruitment, placement, or hiring of domestic workers.

The Hindu's attempts to reach the company regarding the allegation did not elicit a response.

IMTMA event from Jan. 21

BENGALURU The Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA) will organise IMTEX FORMING 2026 from January 21 to 25 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre.

The event will host over 600 exhibitors from 20 countries.

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FOR FRANCHISE BUSINESS ENQUIRY, CALL: +91-91768 40500/97429 57780

IISc, Mysore royal family-led firm ink pact

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at Indian Institute of Science has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cyberverse Foundation, a Mysore royal family-led firm dedicated to building a robust cybersecurity ecosystem in India, and deep-tech firm Pantherun to support early-stage cybersecurity start-ups in the country.

Under the partnership, the three firms would jointly identify and incubate two to four cybersecurity start-ups beginning early 2026. Select start-ups would receive support in technical validation, infrastructure access, mentorship, market access, regulatory guidance and capital enablement. The MoU was signed between Trishikha Kumari Wadiyar, chairperson, Cyberverse Foundation, B. Gurumoorthy, chief executive, FSID, and Srinivas Lakshman Sekhar, founder & CEO, Pantherun on Thursday. Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, chairman, advisory board, Cyberverse Foundation, was present. The tie-up would combine FSID's incubation ecosystem and academic access, Cyberverse's cybersecurity training programmes and laboratory infrastructure, and Pantherun's domain expertise and market reach, they said.

Mr. Wadiyar said the initiative would empower young entrepreneurs and researchers while helping position Mysuru as a hub for cyber innovation and talent development.

SBI opens Global Capability Centre in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, chairman of SBI, on Wednesday inaugurated the bank's Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru. Eleven new SBI branches were inaugurated.

The GCC is a first-of-its-kind initiative by any Indian bank. SBI has set up a dedicated relationship management team in Bengaluru. As part of its CSR initiative, SBI announced projects including the upgradation of 35 government primary schools, support to IISc's Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital, a large-scale tree plantation drive, and donation of an e-ambulance to Madras Engineer Group and Centre.

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Indian Overseas Bank
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Central Office,763, Anna Salai,Chennai - 600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following: GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - ENGAGEMENT OF CISCO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND RESIDENT ENGINEER SERVICES BID NO: GEM/2025/B/7077913 DATED 07.01.2026

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

Date: 07.01.2026 Deputy General Manager (GAD)

CoEET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENERGY TRANSITION (CoEET), A.P.
APEPDCL Training Centre, Sagar Nagar, Visakhapatnam–530045.
Society Reg.No.618 of 2025 Under Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001.

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of the post of 1 No. Centre Head - CoEET on Fixed Term Basis in CoEET. The format of application and other details may be downloaded from APEPDCL Website @ www.apeasternpower.com

Place: Visakhapatnam
Date: 09.01.2026
Advt-136
Sd/- VICE CHAIRMAN
CoEET

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Premises & Estate Dept. Local Head Office,
8th Floor, Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001
E-mail : agmpe.lhopat@sbi.co.in

TENDER ID-LHOPAT/2025-26/01/001
Dated: 06.01.2026
Prequalification of Architectural and Project Management Consultancy firm for the proposed construction of multi-storey building for SBILD, Patna at Bank's plot J.C. Road, Patna
Premises & Estate Department, LHO Patna, on behalf of State Bank of India invites applications in two envelopes system (technical and price bid) for the prequalification of Architectural and Project Management Consultancy firm having experience in multi-storey building for Public Sector Organization / Public Sector Bank / Government Department /Multinational Corporate Houses of repute, for the proposed construction of Multi-storey Building for SBILD, Patna at Bank's plot J.C. Road Patna.
The eligible and interested firm may download the prescribed application form from the Bank's website: "https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news
The tender can be downloaded from 06.01.2026 to 26.01.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs. The addendum/corrigendum, if any will be published in the Bank's website only.

Place: Patna
Date: 06.01.2026
Assistant General Manager (P&E)

CPCL
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise & a Group Company of IndianOil)
Manali, Chennai - 600 068, Tamil Nadu, India

Public Notice

It is hereby informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Impact Assessment Division), Government of India vide letter File No. J-11011/42/2016-IA.II(I) dated 19/01/2024 has accorded Environmental Clearance for Installation of New Catalytic Dewaxing Unit and Modification of Once Through Hydrocracker Unit (OHCU) for Production of Group II/III LOBS within the Existing Refinery Complex (Modernization Project) by M/s. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) at CPCL Manali Refinery, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
Copy of clearance letter is available with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and may be seen on the website of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change at https://parivesh.nic.in/ and on CPCL website at www.cpcl.co.in.

Chief General Manager
(Corporate Planning and Business Development)

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DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU

No: BASEU/42/ADM/2025 Date: 07.01.2026

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION: 2026-27

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru invites applications for admissions to the below three programmes. All the programmes offered at the University are Full-time Residential.

- Five-year Integrated M.Sc. Economics programme [75 seats for Indian candidates +5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Five-year Integrated M.A. Economics programme [50 seats for Indian candidates +5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Three-year B.Sc. Data Analytics programme [50 seats for Indian candidates +5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Two-year M.Sc. Economics [30 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals]
- Two-year M.Sc. Financial Economics [30 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Two-year M.A. Economics [30 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Two-year M.Sc. Development Economics [30 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Two-year M.Sc. Data Analytics [30 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)
- Two-year M.Sc. Public Policy [30 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals)

Candidates are required to fill in a Common University Entrance Test (CUET) 2026-27 online application form and appear for the test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). Further details please visit https://exams.nta.nic.in/cuet-pg/ for PG program and https://cuet.nta.nic.in/ for UG program Admissions to the above-mentioned courses are based on performance in CUET 2026-27 and as per the eligibility criteria and other details please visit http://base.ac.in. Candidates willing to take admission in this University need fill separate online application at www.base.ac.in. Selection process for the PIO/ Foreign National is based on the merit list of the performance in the respective qualifying examination.

Application Fee: (1) Rs.600/- for GM, OBC, (2) Rs.300/- for SC/ST/Persons with Disability and (3) Rs.1000/- for PIO/FN

- **Start date for online application: 08.01.2026**
- **Last date for online application: one week after NTA CUET 2026 UG and PG results declaration**

Note: All dates are subject to change depending on Government regulations.

Sd/-
Prof. Vishwanatha
Vice Chancellor

DIPR/CP/4943/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

Sd/-
Mamatha Devi G S (K.A.S)
Registrar

Contact us: Jnanabharathi Main Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru, Karnataka-560072.
Email: info@base.ac.in, Active Helpdesk: 080-29557767

India's first commercial Quantum Computer to be deployed at IIIT, Dharwad

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's first commercial Quantum Computer to be deployed at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Dharwad, said Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, IT & BT.

"Karnataka is moving decisively in the quantum space. The deployment of India's first commercial Quantum Computer at IIIT-Dharwad marks a significant milestone in our journey to build a world-class quantum ecosystem," he said. The Minister on Wednesday had meetings with the Bengaluru-based deeptech company QpiAI and Singapore-based ZWEEC, to discuss on advancing Karnataka's leadership in quantum technologies and strengthening rural water security.

"Through strong collaboration with companies like QpiAI, the State government was committed to advancing the Karnataka Quantum Roadmap while ensuring that cutting-edge technology translates into real impact," Mr. Kharge said.

According to the Minister, the deployment of the country's first indigenously built Quantum Computer for commercial use at the IIIT-Dharwad, where the State government has recently announced a Centre of Excellence in Quantum AI and Computing, was happening at a quick momentum.

Roadmap

The QpiAI team also briefed Mr. Kharge on their ambitious roadmap to scale from a 25-qubit quantum computer to a 1,000-qubit system within the next two to three years, positioning Karnataka as a key hub for advanced quantum research, talent development, and industry collaboration. The discussions reaffirmed the State government's commitment to working closely with deeptech companies to accelerate innovation, research, and commercial applications in quantum computing, the Minister said.

The ZWEEC, a Singapore-based company specialising in advanced water technology solutions, may work with rural water supply and sanitation department, Mr. Kharge said.

According to the Minister, he had discussions with the representatives of the ZWEEC which offers solutions for early detection of drinking water contamination, algal blooms, and intelligent monitoring of water infrastructure through automated and data-driven technologies. "These solutions have relevance for rural drinking water systems and the government will evaluate the technology further," Mr. Kharge added.

The Hindu signs MoU with RV Institute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

THG Publishing PVT. LTD. has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with RV Institute of Technology and Management

The Hindu Group (acting through its Division name STEP) signed Memorandum of Understanding with RV Institute of Technology and Management, governed by Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust (RSST) to organise STEP learning programme to Students of RV Institute of Technology and Management in the presence of Principal Nagashettappa Biradar, Vice Principal Manjunath Prasad and Placement officer Mallanagouda Patil of RV Institute of Technology and Management, Bengaluru.

Quoting the motive, 'Go Change the World,' Dr Biradar emphasided carrying this vision forward by empowering students to enhance their communication and writing abilities.

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Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2026/B/7085008 **Date: 08-01-2026**

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Surgical Operating ENT Microscope**. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2026/B/7085008
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	07-01-2026
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	13/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	19/01/2026 up to 20:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	19/01/2026 at 20:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

HUBBALLI-DHARWAD BRTS COMPANY LTD., HUBBALLI.
Phone No: 0836-2222007/2322700, E-mail: hdbrtsprojectcell@gmail.com
CIN: U60200KA2012SGC063887

No: HDBRTS/2025-26/SE0022/Call-03 **Date: 08-01-2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION SEEKING CONSULTANTS FOR MAINTAINING ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC SIGNALS (ATCS)

Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Limited invites Consultants for **Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Adaptive Traffic Signals Installed in Hubballi-Dharwad BRT Corridor (2025-26).** The eligibility criteria and other necessary details are available in the e-Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.** The interested consultants meeting eligibility criteria may participate in the e-Bidding process **from 08-01-2026** and the Last Date to Submit the Bid is **17-01-2026 till 17.30 Hours.**

Sd/- General Manager (ITS & OPR)
Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd., Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/1077/Adverto/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Director, Women and Child Development Department
D C office Complex, A Block, 2nd Floor, Devagiri Road, Haveri 581110 Tel : 08375-249002 / 249005
E-mail -ddwcd.haveri@gmail.com

No-DDH/WCD/C.S.T/2025-26/1081 Date : 06.01.2026

E-Procurement Tender Announcement

For the year 2025-26 under the Saksham Scheme tenders have been invited through e-procurement for the supply of various equipment under the Clean Storage facility kit to 1407 Anganawadi centres of 07 Child Development Project in Haveri District. Tender applications can be submitted through online.

(1) Tender No. : DWCD/2025-26/IND0107 (2) Estimated Tender Amount : Rs. **1,40,70,000/-** (3) Address for submission of e-tender : http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (4) Starting date for submission of e-tender : **06-01-2026** (5) Last date for submission of e-tender : **21-01-2026** (6) Date of opening of technical bid : **23-01-2026** (7) Date of opening of financial bid : **28-01-2026**

For more information, you can contact the Deputy Director's Office, Women and Child Development Department, Haveri.

Sd/- District Programme Officer,
Women and Child Development Department
Haveri

DIPR/HAVERI/KSMCA/619/2025-26

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru - 560072. Ph-080-22282220,
E-mail:kredlmd@gmail.com, www.kredl.karnataka.gov.in

No. KREDL/CIVIL/172/2025-26 Date: 07.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), invites bids from contractors/Vendors/Company/ Firms for the following work. **Providing Comprehensive and Non-Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance Services for Integrated Building Systems at KREDL Corporate Office, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru.** Estimated Cost put to Tender: **Rs. 55.00 Lakhs.** For further details, interested applicants may access Bid Documents from e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 09.01.2026.** Last date for submission of bids is on **09.02.2026.**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Accounts), KREDL

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE NO. 01/2026 DATE : 05/01/2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time: 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.	Tender Due on
1	60255316	Rate Contract for the Supply of Spares to Switch Rail Grinding Machine	01 No	**19.01.2026**
2	16251468B	Contact Beam Spring Assembly to WW Part No.5348045.	30 Nos	**21.01.2026**
		Overhauling Kit for WDG4/WDP4 Locomotive Engine Governor	80 Set	
		Ceramic resistor for Woodward Governor to WW Part No. 5433665	18 Nos	
3	30251101A	Rear Cover for Axle Box.	3799 Nos	**20.01.2026**
4	60255327	Manufacture and supply of 60 KG High Viscous Nylon-66 insulating Liner	110000 Nos	**29.01.2026**
5	60255303	Manufacture and supply of Nylon cord Reinforced GRSP for 1 in 8 5 Turnout to Drg no T 4865	494 Sets	**09.02.2026**
6	60255791	High Viscous Nylon HVN 66 Insulating Liners	100000 Sets	**10.02.2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/799/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client Sri.Ravichandra Babu.A to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Possession Certificate dated 25.02.1983 & Allotment letter dated 28.08.1974 issued by BDA in the name of Kondamma in respect of Site No.892, measuring 55.74 Sq.mtrs situated at 1st Block, Kormangala Extension, BBMP Ward No.151 of Kormangala, Bengaluru has been lost at the time of travelling. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Possession Certificate & Allotment Letter. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No. 1999656/2026, dated 08.01.2026.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

AXIS BANK PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION
Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **19.01.2026 at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Bangarapet [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4977	Niranjan Babu M	309903	27-Oct-25	86.500	52.400
Bhattarahalli [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9753	S Masood	170639	06-Nov-25	37.200	36.000
Bhattarahalli [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7968	Yaddala Ganesh	38167	10-Dec-25	6.000	5.900
Chamarajpet, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2464	B Kannan	132750	27-Oct-25	31.900	31.500
Chamarajpet [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0235	Kanik Raj J	244856	19-Dec-25	35.500	33.600
Chamarajpet, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2619	Kavya K	125042	10-Dec-25	17.000	16.200
Chamarajpet, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5944	Kutti	305552	10-Dec-25	85.500	82.700
Channapatna [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5519	Arbiya Kouser	254826	10-Dec-25	41.000	39.900
Channapatna [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5753	Fareeda Bano	470051	10-Dec-25	68.200	65.900
Chikballapur Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7131	Lakshmamma	1333956	27-Oct-25	215.100	203.600
Chikballapur Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8227	Syed Gaphar .	70815.86	10-Dec-25	16.100	15.600
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0255	Anjineya Reddy	102055	10-Dec-25	21.900	21.600
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1511	Mohamed Azam S L	728246	16-Nov-25	109.200	107.000
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7403	Mohamed Azam S L	68876	06-Nov-25	12.900	12.100
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX6474	N Babu	114874	10-Dec-25	19.200	19.200
Chintamani [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0209	N Babu	59630	10-Dec-25	11.400	11.100
Chintamani [[KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0713	P Poojitha	297592	31-Jul-25	53.000	50.700
Electronic City, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9421	Roopa Bai B	104228	10-Dec-25	30.700	21.100
Hoskote, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1269	Ravindra Kumar V	230582	12-Dec-25	42.000	40.000
Hoskote, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX6526	Santhosh Kumar R	1500844.48	27-Oct-25	248.600	241.600
Indiranagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9698	Channappa K S	3042400.21	19-Dec-25	618.800	613.200
Indiranagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1383	Susmita Datta	1143948	06-Nov-25	202.200	191.900
ITI Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1711	Suresh R	321042	27-Oct-25	71.200	53.600
ITI Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8671	Suresh R	202556	16-Jun-25	36.500	36.500
ITI Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3989	Suresh R	108103	27-Oct-25	23.800	19.300
J P Nagar, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5673	Sandeep .	113151.26	16-Nov-25	17.600	17.100
Jayanagar, Bangalore[KT]	XXXXXXXXXX7441	Prakruthi Rao	3424489.66	01-Nov-25	698.800	646.800
Kadugodi [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0836	Raghavendra H P	1495034	12-Dec-25	338.000	328.900
Kadugodi [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX6504	Raghavendra H P	696909	12-Dec-25	156.100	151.100
Kadugodi [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5131	Shaik Chand Basha	265146	10-Dec-25	43.700	41.500
Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3388	Fameedha	61946	12-Sep-25	13.700	13.500
Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8532	Swarna Kumar	398850	10-Dec-25	66.100	64.000
Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9987	Swarna Kumar	172350	16-Nov-25	25.200	25.100
Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4125	Syed Ayesha	382010	10-Dec-25	73.000	71.700
Kolar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8209	Zameer Ahmed	1288622	10-Dec-25	275.000	263.400
Koramangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8366	Sachendra Sharma	36843	19-Dec-25	6.400	6.200
Mahadevpura [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9600	Manoj Kumar Mallick	61344	19-Dec-25	11.400	11.000
Mahadevpura [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1962	Radhanath Parida	133375	10-Dec-25	25.200	24.900
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8427	N Jyothi Reddy	479839	10-Dec-25	63.600	62.400
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3028	Ramanjaneya K C	77589	31-Jul-25	13.100	13.100
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1775	Shanthi Kumar G S	1099779	10-Dec-25	176.700	170.700
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2683	Sharanabasava	224294	12-Dec-25	44.500	35.500
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2549	Shreenivasa G	65498	27-Oct-25	11.000	10.000
Mahalakshmi Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0102	Sushanth R	69369	05-Jun-25	13.700	13.200
Malleswaram, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2100	Anil Kumar P	1020348	10-Dec-25	201.500	199.700
Malleswaram [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1954	Anil Kumar P	721182	10-Dec-25	113.100	110.500
Malleswaram [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8187	Naveena N	102065.52	19-Dec-25	14.700	14.600
Malur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5146	Manimegalai K	195455	10-Dec-25	32.900	31.400
Marathahalli, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3217	C Munireddy	1853337	27-Oct-25	305.500	283.400
Nelamangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8672	Chandrashekar	1214800.2	19-Dec-25	195.300	181.700
Nelamangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8982	Prakash Raj	622306.03	16-Nov-25	121.200	116.000
Nelamangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5624	R Thenmozhi	1794041.56	16-Nov-25	252.400	245.200
Nelamangala, [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX9146	Urmila	357458	10-Dec-25	60.200	57.000
Old Madras Road [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0514	Lakshmi	81860	06-Nov-25	20.200	20.000
Peenya, Bangalore [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX1555	Chandrashekar B B	82301	27-Oct-25	12.800	12.300
Prashanth Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0289	Nagesh M H	242582	10-Dec-25	39.000	39.000
Rajarajeshwari Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0732	Khoushik Kumar	581484	27-Oct-25	109.400	108.000
Rajarajeshwari Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX0930	Kumuda G C	662171	27-Oct-25	116.200	106.800
Ramanagara [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX2158	Mohamed Nawaz	758105	12-Dec-25	147.800	144.800
RBI Layout [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX5209	Satish Kumar Sah	123753	10-Dec-25	20.200	19.000
Sahakarnagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4133	Pullagura Sai Ram Krishna	272347	10-Dec-25	41.100	40.600
Sanjay Nagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX8832	Barinela Kavya	104673	10-Dec-25	23.200	21.200
Sarjapur Road [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4881	Manisha Dubey	1139046	06-Nov-25	181.300	179.400
Shanthinagar [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX3614	C Girisha	595869	10-Dec-25	101.500	95.200
Tumkur [KT]	XXXXXXXXXX4811	Ramappa Basappa Savadi	84091.66	10-Dec-25	13.200	13.000

Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 19.01.2026 between 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.
For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to general public that our Client **Smt. N. Bharathi,** D/o late. Nanje Gowda, Aadhar No. 4060 1311 9719, R/at: No. 205/5, Pooaranjenya Layout, Hennur Cross, Bengaluru-560 043, intends to purchase the Schedule property from **Sri. D. Vamsi Krishna Reddy,** S/o. D. Venku Reddy, Aadhar No. 5795 1145 8073, R/at: Flat No. J 401, Nagarjuna Residency, Opp to NASR School, Telecom Nagar, Gachibowli, K.V. Reddy, Telangana - 500032.

Any person having right, claim or title over the Schedule property may notify with documentary proof, either to us or to our client within **FIFTEEN DAYS,** failing which our Client shall assume that there are no claims, whatsoever and there afterwards our Client will proceed to purchase the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Converted property bearing Sy.No.90/6, measuring to an extent of 4.75 guntas or 5172 Sq. Ft., out of total extent of 13 guntas, Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Land in Sy.No.90/6 belongs to Puttamma, **North by:** Land in Sy.No.90/8 belongs to D. Vamsi Krishna Reddy, **South by:** 60 feet Road.

M/s. Mathru Associates,
Advocates
No.3/13, 2nd Floor, DBS Gurusiddappa Building, 4th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009.
Ph: 9900900166.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **SHRI. SHIVA VEERA,** aged about 58 years, **S/o Late Veerabhadraiah C,** residing at #004, SKYLARK Topaz Apartment, 5th Main Road, Near BEML Hospital, Jagadish Nagar, New Thippasandra, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560075 (hereinafter referred to as the "Owner").

The Owner represents that he is the absolute owner and in possession of the Schedule Property and that the Schedule Property is free from all kinds of encumbrances, charges, liens, mortgages, claims, litigations, suits, attachments, acquisitions, or proceedings under any statute.

Any person or persons claiming or asserting any right, title, interest, on Schedule Property or any part thereof, whether by way of sale, mortgage, lien, gift, inheritance, lis pendens, agreement, power of attorney, is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice, along with all supporting documentary evidence, failing which our Client shall treat the title of the Schedule Property as clear, marketable and unencumbered and proceed to conclude the proposed sale transaction without any further reference.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Site bearing No. 115, Khatha No. 2561/115, PID No. 150200201300221192, measuring East to West 12.19 Meters and North to South 9.14 Meters, totally measuring 111.41 Square Meters, carved out as per BIAPPA approved layout plan in the Consolidated Properties , being converted land bearing Survey No. 71 measuring 1 Acre 30 Guntas, Survey No. 75/1 measuring 3 Acres 33 Guntas, Survey No. 75/2 measuring 1 Acre 36 Guntas and Survey No. 75/3 measuring 1 Acre 38 Guntas, in all measuring 9 Acres 17 Guntas, situated at Kudurugere Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Site No. 86
North by : Site No. 114
South by : Site No. 116

SRINIVAS R.
TAPASYA LAW CHAMBERS
Advocates and Attorneys
No.1954, 20th 'E' Cross, C-Block, Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 092
Mob : 98867 46630 | Ph : 080-2362 3483
E-mail : legal@tapasyalaw.in

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम · A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION)
UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	**1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1) SRI SHANMUGHAN E SUNDARAM (BORROWER)** No: 511, 7th Cross, 7th Main K N Extension, Gokula 1st Stage Yeshwantpur, Bangalore – 560 022 **2) SRI KRISHNA JODIDAR (GUARANTOR)** **S/O Venkanna Jodidar No.9,** Water Tank Road, Yadalam Nagar, Subramanyapura Bangalore – 560 061. **2) Canara Bank - Hombegowda nagar Branch** **Mob. No. 8521113832**	**1) Rs. 25,24,592.31** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 29.01.2026 upto 5.00 pm 2) 29.01.2026 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 25,000/-	**1. 30.01.2026 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 28.01.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: Schedule –A: All that piece and parcel of the properties bearing (1) Sy. No. 5/3, measuring 2 acres 27 guntas of land (2) Sy. No. 46, Measuring 2 acres of Land (3) Sy. No. 47, measuring 2 acres of land and (4) Sy. No.48, measuring 2 Acres of land, totally measuring 8 acres 27 guntas excluding Kharab, situated at Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, converted for non agricultural residential purpose through the conversion order bearing No. BDS/ALN/SR (A) 66/2001-02, DATED 26/02/2003 AND BOUNDED ON: **East by :** Property bearing Sy. No. 46 & 5/4, **West by:** Property bearing Sy. No. 49 & 5/1, **North by:** Property bearing Sy. Nos. 5/2, 5/4 & 5/5, And **South by :** Property bearing Sy. No. 45. **Schedule – B:** All that Residential Apartment bearing No. IG 252 in Ground Floor in Block **'I' of "ITTINA NEELA"** built in Schedule 'A' property and measuring 660 Sq. ft of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas together with 198 Sq.ft. undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property, and in the said apartment the doors are made of flush doors and steel windows and mosaic flooring. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 12,54,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,25,400.00**			
2	**1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1) ANTHONY LEANARD YERRICK (Borrower)** **S/o Anthony Yerrick** **2) Sagaya Mary (Joint Borrower)** **W/o Anthony leanard yerrick,** **All are residing at :** No 27, 1st Cross, Kanakadasa layout, Lingarajapuram,Bengaluru-560084. **2) Canara Bank - Cox Town Branch** **Mob. No. 9446691761**	**1) Rs. 2,93,235.52** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 29.01.2026 upto 5.00 pm 2) 29.01.2026 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-	**1. 30.01.2026 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 28.01.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: All that piece and parcel of property with two square A.C.C. sheet roofed house along with amenities bearing No.27, comprised in No.28/3,khata No.18, situated at Lingarajapuram(V), Kasaba Hobli, Bangaluru ,560084 And bounded on : **East By:** 30 feet wide road, **West By:** Site No.28, **North By :** Site No.30 And **South By :** Site No.25. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 1,77,53,500.00 B) EMD - Rs. 17,75,350.00**			
3	**1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. M/S. M R HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED** **Represented by Directors** **2.Mr. S MANJUNATH REDDY and MR. CHETHAN KUMAR.** No 42, Old No 407,8th B Main Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore South 560011. **And having Registered office at** 106/A, 4th Cross, 5th Block, Koramangala, Behind Raheja Arcade, Bangalore -560095 **3.MR. S MANJUNATH REDDY (Director and Guarantor)** **Director of M/S. M R HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED** **S/O SHANKAR REDDY,** No 8, 4th Cross, 8th Main, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore South 560011. **4.MR. CHETHAN KUMAR** **Director of M/S. M R HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED** **RESIDING AT C/O S VISWANATHA SHETTY** Ward No 16, Srinivasam, 2nd Stage, 4th Cross,near Raghavendra Talkies, Agadi Com, Bellari, Karnataka-583101. **5.SMT. BHAGYALAKSHMI (Guarantor)** **W/O SRI. KRISHNA MURTHY T V** 15, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya,1st Main Road, Ranganatahapura,Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore - 560079. **2) Canara Bank - Wilson Garden Branch** **Mob. No. 9449860027, 9661805035**	**1) Rs. 2,80,43,157.77** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 29.01.2026 upto 5.00 pm 2) 29.01.2026 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-	**1. 30.01.2026 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 28.01.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: All that piece and parcel of vacant site bearing No.128/1, Khatha No.123, presently Pattanagere/Rajarajeshwari Nagar CMC Khatha No.152/128/1 situated at Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 88 Feet and North to South 40Feet totally measuring 3250Sq Ft. bounded as follows: **East By :** Muthaiah 's House, **West By :** Road, **North By :** Private Property and **South By :** Galaiah's Property. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 4,40,00,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 44,00,000.00**			

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 79797 89851

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 08.01.2026

Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577007.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–208029

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಃದಾವಿಃಅಭಿಃ57/2025–26/4292 ದಿನಾಂಕಃ07.01.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Tender Name:-1) Tender for Supply Installation, Testing & Commissioning Of Computers and other Equipments of Computer Lab For Department of MCA
Tender No:DU/2025-26/IND0032,
Tender Name:-2) Supply of Furniture and Electronics items for Department of MCA Tender No:DU/2025-26/IND0033,

ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ (ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999, ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ E-Portal Tender ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.01.2026 ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ website:-www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, – ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ದೂ.ಸಂ:08192–208029 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/628/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ
ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/Tender Notification No:17/2025-26:
Dated: 01.01.2026

Tender Notification

(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account TFS. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.36.52 Crores.** The amount of EMD is **Rs.0.36 Crores** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **07.01.2026 to 06.02.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **07.02.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd:**30.01.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

DIPR/SMG/No-41-01/zenkar/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/Tr(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/11053-54 Date: 07.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bids for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/**Bid Enq-0090** Dated: 06.01.2026. for Augmentation of **2X8MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2X12.5 MVA Power Transformer at 66/11KV Bidarekere S/S** in Operations Division Hiremallanahole at Jagaluru Taluk, Davanagere District. **2) Bid Enquiry No:** KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/**Bid Enq-0091** Dated: 06.01.2026. for Augmentation of **2X12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2X20 MVA Power Transformer at 66/11KV Bilchodu S/S** in Operations Division Benkikere at Jagaluru Taluk, Davanagere District. **3) Bid Enquiry No:** KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/**Bid Enq-0092** Dated: 06.01.2026 for Augmentation of **1X8MVA & 1X12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2X20MVA Transformer at 66/11KV Chitrahalli S/S** in Operations Division Chitradurga at Holalkere Taluk, Chitradurga District. For all the above works including supply of equipments/ materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), under **Partial turnkey basis,** on Percentage Tender Basis' (Excluding the supply of Major materials such as Power Transformer & NIFS, which will be supplied by, KPTCL Testing & commissioning, done by KPTCL RT Staff).

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP Portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 14.01.2026** and other details can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana," 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, Tumakuru – 572103

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITA

(Government of Karanataka)

Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC Division, Channarayapatna-573116 Hassan District.

Tele Phone No. : 08176-252204 Fax No. : 08176-256650 E-Mail : eehlbcrp@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 09/2025-26 DATED :05.01.2026. Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Single and Two cover System

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Electronic tenders on ITEMWISE TENDERS on Karnataka public procurement portal are invited by the Executive Engineer, No1, HLBC, Division, Channarayapatna in Karnataka from eligible KPWD/ CPWD/ Registered public organization contractors for the works mentioned here under. Total No of works 4 works Types of works Project Management Consultancy Services for D.Tumkur DWS (Two cover System), Improvements to road, Construction of compound wall in HRP Colon Bagur and Construction of Protective works. (Single cover System) Estimated Amount Rs. 33.47 Lakhs to Rs. 50.75 Lakhs E.M.D. Details Rs. 67000/- to Rs. 102000/- The contractors can obtain the documents and can access KPP Portal. Contractors can download the documents from 07.01.2026 and 28.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM will be the last date for submission of application through KPP Portal. Date of Opening of Technical bid of two cover tender and financial bid of single cover tender will be on 29.01.2026 at 5.00 PM, and financial bid of two cover tender will be opened soon after the approval of technical bid. If any variation found in amount put to tender and E.M.D, amount mentioned in the bid document will be consider as final. Note: Further details can be obtained from the above office or Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC Division, Channarayapatna, Hassan District.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/915/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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Bookstore Partner: Crossword

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD Amount		Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4305/2025-26 Date: 08.01.2026 (Call-2) (Reserved for SC Category)	1	Rs.24,33,443/-	16.01.2026 upto 5.00 pm	17.01.2026 after5.15 pm
				Rs.25,000/-		
2			2	Rs.37,01,737/-		
				Rs.37,100/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4305/2025-26 Date: 08.01.2026 (Call-2)	Rs.29,89,996/-			
			Rs.60,000/-			
4		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4305/2025-26 Date: 08.01.2026 (Call-2) (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.54,72,811/-			
			Rs.55,000/-			
5		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4305/2025-26 Date: 08.01.2026 (Call-2)	Rs.11,35,147/-			
			Rs.28,400/-			

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

6	South East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/3819/2025-26 Date: 07.01.2026 (Call-3)	1	Rs.32,10,725/-	16.01.2026 upto 4.00 pm	17.01.2026 after 4.30 pm
				Rs.64,200/-		
7			2	Rs.47,95,713/-		
				Rs.96,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East)-1

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4936/AKAR/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.22 of 2025-26

No.7708 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 30th December-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number road work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for Improvement work as detailed in:**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website **from 5.00 P.M. of 12.01.2026 to 5.00 P.M of 22.01.2026**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **at 5.30 P.M of 22.01.2026** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

B-913:

Sd/- Er. M.K.Mahananda
Chief Construction Engineer,
Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2025-26/ 2466, Dated:07.01.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

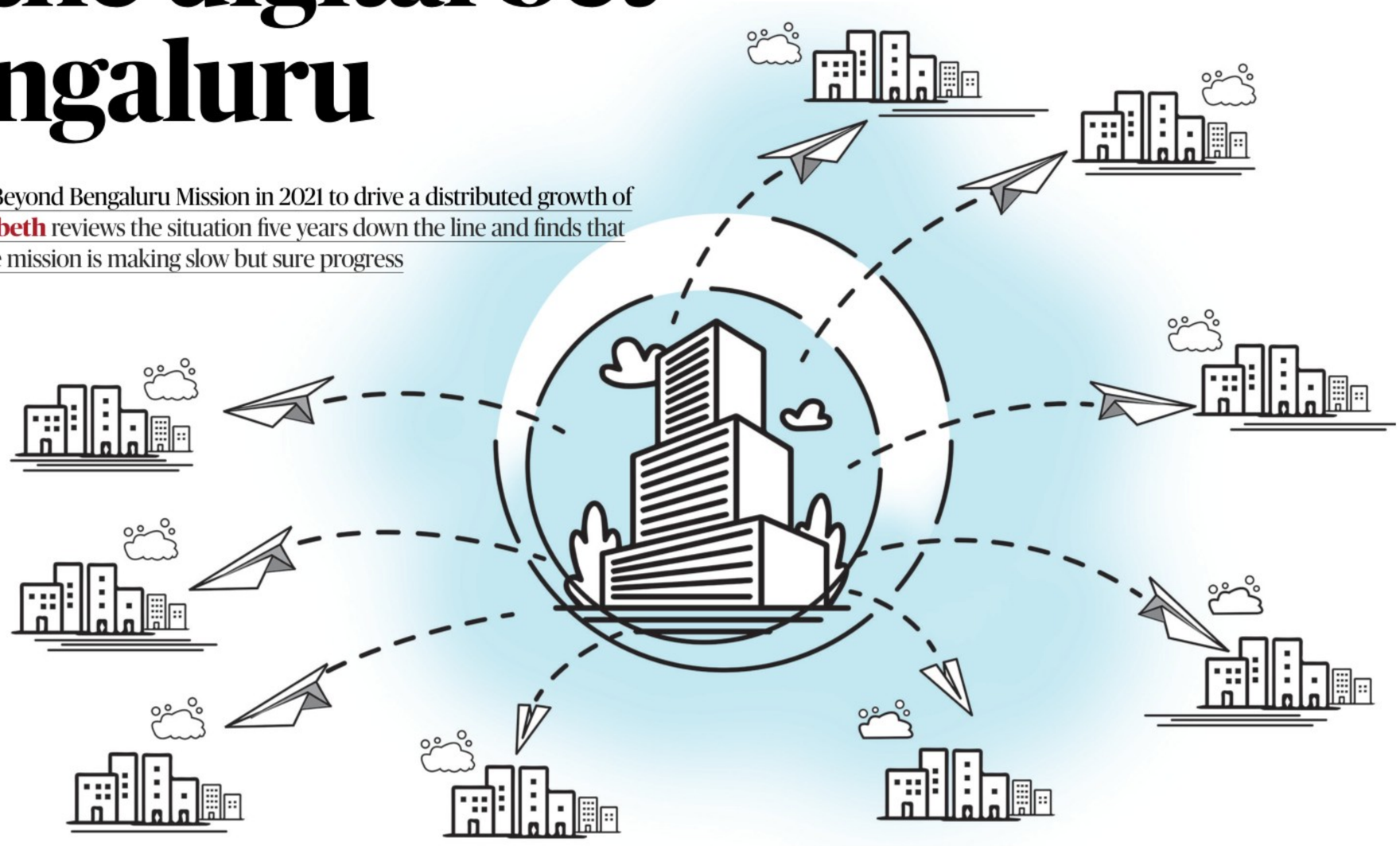
1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under KKRDB (Plan) for the year 2025-26 Under Shorapur Taluka-(1)30415, (2)30416, (3)30959, (4)31467, (5)30330, (6)30331 and (7)30476 Total 7 (Seven) works Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Miminimum Rs 115.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.300.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** Civil Class-III & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:** 17.01.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification:** 20.01.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:** 22.01.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 23.01.2026 (16.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 27.01.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir. 11) Website Address: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

DIP/YDG/460/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

Spreading the digital bet Beyond Bengaluru

The Karnataka Digital Economy Mission launched the Beyond Bengaluru Mission in 2021 to drive a distributed growth of digital economy outside the State capital. **Shilpa Elizabeth** reviews the situation five years down the line and finds that despite teething issues, the overriding feeling is that the mission is making slow but sure progress



We started up here simply because we didn't want to leave this place. We love the beach and the coast, and we wanted to build something without letting go of any of it, says Mayur Shetty, CEO at BlackFrog Technologies, a medical device manufacturing company based out of Manipal. His career decisions, he says, were shaped by the question of what he could do to avoid moving to Bengaluru.

The sentiment may resonate with many.

The IT boom of the 1990s catapulted Bengaluru to being the economic powerhouse that it is today. The city's contribution today to the State's GSDP is disproportionately large at 43%. But the economic prosperity's darker side reveals crumbling infrastructure, strained civic amenities and high cost of living.

It was in 2021 that the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) launched the Beyond Bengaluru Mission with the goal of driving distributed growth of Karnataka's digital economy outside Bengaluru.

Almost five years down the line, multiple schemes, policies and grants have been introduced under the initiative to encourage companies to expand to tier-2 cities in the State and to boost entrepreneurship in districts. The initiative has been making progress - albeit unevenly - across clusters. Meanwhile, entrepreneurs, industry leaders and ecosystem players in these regions hope to see more in the coming days.

Bringing industry closer to talent

B.V. Naidu, chairman at KDEM, recalls that as early as 1998, when he was heading Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), a tier-2 STPI Centre was established in Mysuru. In 2001, similar centres were established in Hubballi and Mangaluru.

Despite this early push, tech growth did not take off as expected in these regions owing to a lack of sustained focus from the governments that followed.

"Having closely observed the landscape and potential of these regions over the years, we made Beyond Bengaluru one of the core missions when KDEM was established," he says.

The reason, according to him, is straightforward – the availability of talent owing to the historically strong educational foundation in places like Belagavi, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Hubballi, which boast of some of the oldest and most prominent engineering colleges in the country. However, due to the absence of local industry opportunities, a large portion of this wide talent pool migrated to Bengaluru or other tier-1 cities.

Our fundamental question was, Naidu says, instead of talent moving to where industry exists, can we bring industry closer to where the talent already is?

Hub and spoke model

Three clusters – Mysuru, Mangaluru and Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi (HDB) – were identified initially, followed by Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, and Tumakuru.

"Each cluster also supports neighbouring districts. For example, the Mangaluru cluster will also power Udupi and, to some extent, Kodagu and nearby regions. Similarly, the Mysuru cluster will cover Chamarajanagar and Mandya. This is the essence of the cluster-based approach," says Manjula N., Secretary to the Government of Karnataka for the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology.

The goal has been a 'hub and spoke' model development, where Bengaluru will continue to grow and remain the core hub, while other locations would function as spokes.

"This helps manage costs, which are increasingly high in Bengaluru, and allows for scalable expansion, while tapping into regional talent and resources," notes Mr. Naidu.

Many incentives like land subsidies, which are not available in Bengaluru but in the clusters, are specifically designed to encourage companies to go beyond Bengaluru.

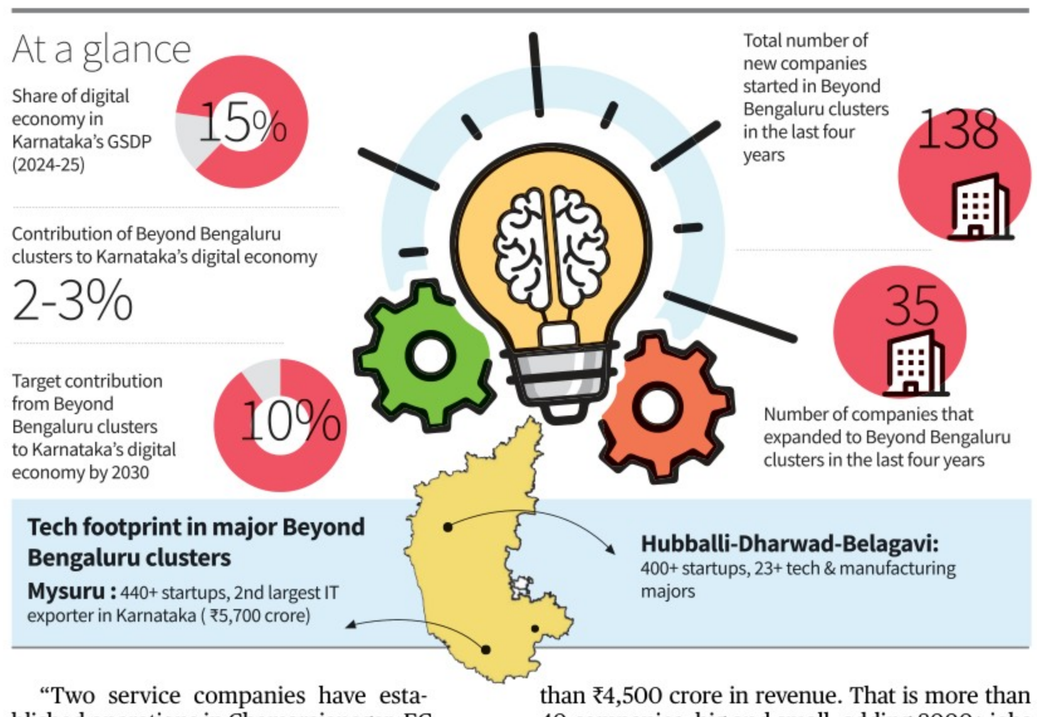
Tailored incentives

"In addition, the government actively supports companies in identifying the most suitable locations, whether for manufacturing or office rentals, and works closely with the developer community. We have booster kits for startups as well as GCCs, all aimed at improving ease of doing business," explains Ms. Manjula.

Data from KDEM shows 138 new companies starting operations and 35 companies expanding to these clusters in the last four years, resulting in the creation of 9,281 jobs. Multiple GCCs have also started operations in some of the clusters.

"IBM, for example, started operations in Mysuru and continues to grow there. A few other companies have followed suit, and one more large company will soon expand to Mysuru," says Mr. Naidu.

> I didn't want to leave for bigger cities because this is my hometown and I wanted to create job opportunities here.
>
> **MABOOF MULLA,** founder of Hoopoe e-Bikes


At a glance
Share of digital economy in Karnataka's GSDP (2024-25)
15%
Contribution of Beyond Bengaluru clusters to Karnataka's digital economy
2-3%
Target contribution from Beyond Bengaluru clusters to Karnataka's digital economy by 2030
10%
Total number of new companies started in Beyond Bengaluru clusters in the last four years
138
35
Number of companies that expanded to Beyond Bengaluru clusters in the last four years
Tech footprint in major Beyond Bengaluru clusters
Mysuru : 440+ startups, 2nd largest IT exporter in Karnataka (₹5,700 crore)
Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi:
400+ startups, 23+ tech & manufacturing majors

"Two service companies have established operations in Chamarajanagar. EG and Bose have set up GCCs in Mangaluru. Six to seven companies have come up in the Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi cluster," adds Ms. Manjula.

Beyond Bengaluru startups

The interest from large companies prompted the officials to extend the focus to startups beyond Bengaluru too.

Investor-focused pitch events called Beyond Bengaluru Investor Ecosystem (BLUE) and Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) that connects Bengaluru-based accelerators with accelerators in other clusters were formed as part of this.

In addition, the government introduced the ₹75-crore Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund and the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP), a five-year-long initiative with an outlay of approximately ₹1,000 crore, to support entrepreneurs from ideation to commercialisation.

While the role of government is critical in developing ecosystems, it is also important to maintain a balance, says Madan Padaki, president TiE Bangalore.

"Several ecosystems are artificially pumped up by the governments. The balancing role of the government is very critical. If you do too much or too little, there's a challenge. Karnataka seems to find that balance. KDEM is an industry organisation within the government. That mixture is very critical," he notes. Mr. Padaki also points out how local industry leaders, with government support, function as anchors in each cluster.

The Silicon Beach

Rohith Bhat, who founded Udupi-based Robosoft Technologies and is currently the CEO of 99 Games, recalls how a few years back, delegates brought in by KDEM to showcase the Mangaluru cluster turned down the proposal of setting up their businesses in the region citing lack of quality infrastructure.

"Mangaluru has good quality of life, it has been the centre of education, producing 20,000 STEM graduates and 10,000 engineers every year. But the infra part was missing, which dissuaded the delegates then. So, we got together and decided we have to solve that problem," says Mr. Bhat, who is also the founding president of TiE Mangaluru chapter.

Industry leaders put their heads together to come up with strategies to develop a startup ecosystem in the region, as well as to attract GCCs and nano GCCs. The moniker 'Silicon Beach of India' was coined for branding. Momentum picked up. In 2025, Denmark-based EG opened their third office and Bose Professional established its first R&D centre outside the U.S. in Mangaluru.

"In 2023, there were around 15,000 IT employees in the region producing ₹3,300 crore in revenue. Today, we have approximately 27,000 IT employees in this region, generating more than ₹4,500 crore in revenue. That is more than 40 companies, big and small, adding 8000+ jobs in the region in two years," notes Mr. Bhat.

Notable startup-exit stories from the region include Novigo Solutions' acquisition by R Systems for ₹950 crore, Niveus Solutions' takeover by NTT DATA, and Robosoft's acquisition by Japan's TechnoPro Holdings for approximately ₹800 crore.

Missing pieces

While the region's transformation has been commendable, startup founders hope for more. According to Mr. Shetty from BlackFrog, one of the biggest needs of the ecosystem is connectivity and easier access to cities like Bengaluru.

"You need to project that you are not far off in some remote island. Better connectivity to Bengaluru would be a great first step if the government is serious about supporting companies beyond Bengaluru," he says, adding that the presence of VCs in the region is almost nonexistent.

> Better connectivity to Bengaluru would be a great first step if the government is serious about supporting companies beyond Bengaluru
>
> **MAYUR SHETTY,** CEO of BlackFrog Technologies

Avinash Rao, founder of Dharmasthala-based Agrileaf, points out that basics such as power, internet and water are still an issue in places within the cluster.

"When I set up the business five years back, I had to go to Ujire or Dharmasthala every day for about two hours, sit in the car, browse and come back," he recollects, adding that startups and businesses in the districts could do well with speedy approvals from the government.

While finding talent used to be an issue, the "Oorige Banni" (come back to homeland) initiative, conceived by the industry leaders, has been helping to bring back people who migrated, Mr. Rao notes. "Around 20 members of our staff in the mid senior roles currently are people who came back from Bengaluru," says Mr. Rao, who himself worked in Bengaluru and the U.S. previously.

The proximity problem

Mysuru can brag of many things – cultural capital, lower operation and living costs, better quality of life, abundance of talent and low crime rate. Global Technology Centre, a 5,000 sq. ft. incubation facility by KDEM, is also located in the region. Yet, it has an interesting problem, which is its proximity to Bengaluru, says Bhaskar Kalale, chairman at EqualizeRCM, Mysuru.

"Companies feel that if they can get the same level of talent in Bengaluru, which is only a short distance away, or bring talent from Mysuru to Bengaluru, then why open a centre in Mysore. There are now increasing number of people who commute from Mysuru to Bengaluru for work, with better connectivity in place," notes the TiE Mysuru chapter president, who adds that low awareness among people about available schemes is also a problem.

When it comes to setting up startups, Mysuru's competition may not be just Bengaluru, say some.

"It could also be some town in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, or Gujarat. We need region-specific incentives that are comparable or can compete with other States," suggests Pavan Ranga, CEO at Mysuru-based Rangsons Technologies. He stresses on the need for a funding platform with government, private and public participation.

"Funding is a challenge for startups in all tier-2 towns. Ultimately, they have to drive down to Bengaluru for a meeting with a PE or VC fund. And the minute they hear you are from Mysuru, a lot of them switch off. While there is some government support in the form of funds and grants, that's not enough to create a meaningful disruptive story," he says.

Lagging approvals

On being asked why he chose to start his business in Belagavi, Maboof Mulla, founder of Hoopoe e-Bikes, asks a counter question. "People in tier-1 cities will get jobs quickly. What about jobs for people in tier-2 or tier-3 towns?"

The Hoopoe e-Bike was launched by Minister Priyank Kharge at BTS-2025, following which the startup began to get orders from across the State.

"I didn't want to leave for bigger cities because this is my hometown and I wanted to create job opportunities here. I can solve the ground-level problems here faster than attempting to do it anywhere else," he says.

Nevertheless, lack of mentorship has been a challenge, apart from access to capital and infrastructure.

"KDEM is trying, but things are moving at a slow pace in the HDB cluster. The grants given by government is inadequate for startups like us. One of the critical needs is infrastructure. Government has land. If they set can set up infrastructure there – buildings or even sheds – we could use it to scale up quickly."

Yet another challenge is the majority of the approvals that still lie in Bengaluru, adds Girish Mane, president at TiE Hubli.

Pointing out that the single window approval system has not been very effective, he demands that all approvals for Beyond Bengaluru, true to the name, should happen outside Bengaluru. While the launch of LEAP could be useful, a lot more awareness should be built around it, he adds.

Matter of time

The problems and teething issues withstanding, the overriding feeling is that the mission is making progress, albeit slowly.

"From a maturity standpoint, Shivamogga is getting there. Tumakuru, because of its proximity to Bengaluru, has both an advantage and a disadvantage. Kalaburagi and Kalyana Karnataka definitely need a lot of support. But we're seeing some green shoots of early-stage startups emerging from there," says Mr. Padaki.

Officials acknowledge that there are challenges, but are confident that it is only a matter of time before things pick up pace. KDEM already seem to be in touch with town planning officials in the clusters to ensure that the urban infrastructure grows in parallel to accommodate the demands that may come up once the ecosystems start to flourish.

"KDEM is addressing the issues gradually. For instance, in the case of the ESDM sector, our point of contact is continuously coordinating with the Commerce & Industries department to resolve land-related issues in Chamarajanagar. The system can't change overnight. Hence, we are trying to act as a buffer between bureaucracy and industry, smoothing processes and helping companies navigate regulatory requirements," says Mr. Naidu.

Here is what to expect at the BLR Hubba, a city-wide arts and culture festival, now in its third edition, which offers nearly 354 multidisciplinary events spread across several venues and 10 days.

Culture hub The city-wide BLR Hubba, offers a plethora of choices when it comes to art offerings. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hubba's back again

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"Arts and culture are a great way to build a city brand, in more ways than one," says V Ravichandar, chief facilitator of BLR Hubba, a city-wide festival, now in its third edition, which will run in Bengaluru from January 16 to 25. The Hubba, therefore, is a stepping stone towards creating a larger Bengaluru brand that goes beyond startups, technology, traffic and garbage or even the old monikers of garden city and pensioners' paradise, says Ravichandar, who believes that " we should (also) be known as a happening place for art and culture."

The Hubba, a clever play on the words "habba", which means festival in Kannada, and "hub", something Bengaluru is in so many ways, offers nearly 354 multidisciplinary events spread across several venues and 10 days. Some of these include a Kannada performance of *Medea*, Roysten Abel's *The Manganiyar Seduction*, an art exhibition titled Holding Pattern by city-based artist Ravikumar Kashi, Tholpavakoothu (shadow puppetry) by Vipin V, Padmini Chettur's Varnam, a concert by Marty Friedman and even an AI and mathematics session by Yang-Hui He, a Fellow at the London Institute.

The festival, anchored by UnboxingBLR, is divided into 12 sub-festivals – Kala Hubba, Kantha Hubba, Nataka Hubba, Churumuri Hubba, Thindi Hubba and so on – each curated by a different person "so that there is clear ownership," Ravichandar says. It also makes it easier to identify the events one is interested in, since the names of the subfestival indicate what it primarily focuses on, whether it is visual art, storytelling, music or theatre. After all, "this festival is about diversity of choices," says Ravichandar, pointing out that taking art to public spaces automatically democratises it, bringing in people from across society's strata.

"We are a civilisation built on bazaar culture, where communities frequently meet to shop, gossip, and do things together. This collective get-together is the essential nature of what we are, and that is manifested physically in what I would call public spaces accessible to all, with no entry barriers."

One of the primary inspirations of the Hubba is the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest arts festival, which has transformed this "honestly nothing, cold, dreary Scottish city" into a "very hip and cool one." While, of course, this festival is much smaller than the Fringe, the raison d'être is similar. Through these initiatives, you can build a larger city brand," says Ravichandar, who also sees Kochi-Muziris Biennale and Goa's Serendipity Arts Festival as having inspired the team.

The difference between the Hubba and Serendipity, Ravichandar says, is that "Serendipity is run by a set of people in Delhi who go to Goa to run the festival, and tourists from everywhere go to Goa." The Hubba, on the other hand, is local, meant primarily for the Bengalurean, though, "if people from elsewhere wish to come, they are welcome to."

All events at the BLR Hubba are open to all and can be accessed with either free passes offered on a first-come, first-served basis or donor passes priced between ₹250 and ₹450. The logic of having this equal split between free and paid passes, says Ravichandar, is to predict turnout. "The donor pass is a mechanism for crowd control and estimation."

A festival of flavours

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Bengaluru's arts and crafts festival, BLR Hubba 2026, is taking over the city next week. With dance, music, theatre, visual art and many other events and performances, the 10-day festival is now in its third edition. Supporting the BLR Hubba, is a Thindi Hubba, a celebration of the rich and diverse tapestry that is Indian cuisine. "Street food, in its humble brilliance, holds so many invisible nuances," says the curator of Thindi Hubba, Kabyashree Borgohain. "Through this event I'm seeking moments where a shared snack becomes a shared story."

"With Thindi Hubba, we aim to uncover the invisible design logic behind our everyday eating, from wrapping styles to walking meals, handheld dishes bridging traditional food wisdom with contemporary food-design thinking," adds Kabyashree, who with Dayananda Meitei, is the founder of Project Otenga, the Delhi-based organisation that looks at interdisciplinary collaboration through food and design.

Reimagining street food

The food stalls cover all four corners of the country. Here are some of the highlights:

Mudde pe aayein

Ragi mudde is a staple in many Kannadiga homes. At Thindi Hubba, they will serve hawker-style mudde bowls with chutneys, coatings, and bhutte ki kees.

Grill from the hills

This food stall takes inspiration from the kitchens of North east India and centres around a range of pork dishes. Traditional methods such as smoking and fermentation, and flavours including sesame, bamboo shoots and axone, are given a contemporary spin here.

Ghughuni gully

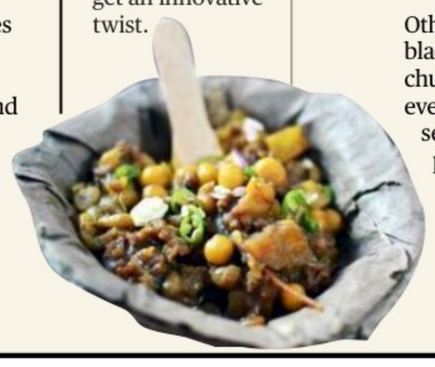
At this stall you can dine on the warm and comforting ghughni chaat from West Bengal. The ghughni is traditionally made with yellow peas or black chickpeas, which are slow-cooked with spices. At the hubba they get an innovative twist.

Hamaar Litti

These charcoal grilled sattu dumplings are a favourite from Bihar and UP. Pair it with mustard oil scented mashed potato (aloo chokha) and bright green chillies.

Neo paan, postmodern paan

One for the bold and expreimental, this is a contemporary take on paan which is lighter and more botanical. Here paan is reworked with fresh ingredients and unexpected pairings. Think sweet, savoury options, inspired from popular dishes like miang kham, a Thai appetiser.



Other stalls include golgappes with six kinds of paanis, black rice crepes, rasam prepared with elephant apple, churmuri and bhel puri, ramen and chai. The Hubba has events with food stalls. "There will be book reading sessions on food, edible experiences on personality-based tastes, and other sessions on food memories, zero waste cooking, mithai making, and pickling."

BLR Hubba will be held in the city between January 16 and 25 at multiple locations. For more details visit blrhubba.in

Ragas, rhythm and jazz

Music – The Harvest Horn of Plenty will see US saxophonist Phil Scarff and Bengaluru's MoonArra present original compositions based on classical ragas and jazz harmonies

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If you thought jazz and Hindustani classical were on different musical spectrums, Music - The Harvest Horn of Plenty, could give you pause for thought. This concert is a collaborative effort between Boston-based Phil Scarff and MoonArra, a world fusion ensemble in Bengaluru founded by Jagadeesh MR and Madhuri Jagadeesh.

To understand how this unusual musical alliance came about, *The Hindu MetroPlus* spoke to Phil Scarff, who was in Guwahati before his concert in the city.

Phil Scarff began playing the saxophone when he was about 11, gravitating towards jazz groups before moving to Boston for gigs with like-minded musicians. There, he met Warren Senders, a jazz musician, who had been playing Hindustani music for years. Smitten as he was by this new sound, Phil says he could not always follow Warren's directions.

From across the seas Phil Scarff and MoonArra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"His instructions for improvisation were intriguing and challenging to execute, and I couldn't always comprehend them. I realised later his instructions were derived from *raag* grammar."

In the pre-internet era, Phil says he continued his education listening to LPs and attending the handful of Hindustani concerts which took place in Boston at the time.

"Around 1984, Warren organised an ensemble that included the sitar and tabla; he played string bass, and I, the soprano saxophone. We were joined by Steve Gorn who played the bansuri."

As soon as he heard Steve play, Phil says he decided, to undertake an in-depth study of Hindustani music. He began his education under Kalpana Mazumdar, a Hindustani vocalist in Boston before coming to India to learn from leading sunri artist Pt. Suryakant Khaladkar. "The sunri is similar to the sax, making it ideal to learn this genre of music."

He continued his studies with vocalist Pt. Shreeram Devasthali, and later on with shehnai maestro Pt. Shyamrao Lonkar and Peter Row, a sitarist in Boston

In 1987, Phil put together an ensemble that combined jazz, Hindustani, and music from West Africa. That became Natraj and the Lewis Porter-Phil Scarff Group which still hosts concerts around the world.

Phil was invited to present a full-fledged Hindustani concert in Kohlapur in 2008. "Though I had doubts about the turnout, I realised it was a great opportunity. I had close to three months to prepare and was shocked when I came out to perform to a packed house of 250."

Phil's performance was highly appreciated, earning him recurring invites to concerts in India. Around eight years ago, he became acquainted with the Bangalore School of Music and MoonArra.

"I believe this is another phase of one's education: playing in concerts and collaborating with various artistes. Though in India, I usually perform at Hindustani concerts or jugalbandis with Carnatic artistes, my sets with MoonArra will largely comprise fusion pieces based on raags."

MoonArra is recording an album of original songs written and composed by Madhuri and Phil, with arrangements by Jagadeesh and creative inputs by Jataveda Banerjee.

Music - The Harvest Horn of Plenty will be a 90-minute performance featuring Phil Scarff on the soprano sax, guitarist Jagadeesh MR, vocalists Madhuri Jagadeesh and Jataveda Banerjee, with Adarsh Shenoy on the tabla.

Music - The Harvest Horn of Plenty will be presented at Alliance Française de Bangalore, at 7pm on January 14. Tickets priced at ₹500 are available on District.

STEPOUT

A crafty collective

Indian Craft Collective, a curated showcase of NSRCEL's Women Startup Program, will present a series of women-led ventures in handloom, accessories, home décor, jewellery, apparel and craft, focusing on thoughtful design, heritage techniques, and contemporary expression.
At Safina Plaza, Infantry Road, on January 10 and 11, between 10am and 8pm. The event is open to all. RSVP luma.com/iqik9qjz.

Gold touch

The Akshaya Patra Foundation joins hands with legendary composer Ilaiyaraaja for a charity concert, Music for Meals. The concert marks 50 years of the maestro's presence in the industry. Music for Meals aims to support The Akshaya Patra Foundation's Mid-Day Meal Programme.
At NICE Grounds 04, Madavara, on January 10, from 7pm. Tickets available on District by Zomato.

Multifaceted talents

Continuum: Artists across Time and Space, will exhibit the works of over 50 artists, and includes solo shows by SG Vasudev and Asit Poddar.
Continuum will be at Venkatappa Art Gallery from January 11 to 18, and January 23 to February 1. The solo shows will move to Gallery Time and Space from January 23 to February 1.

Govt. mulling steps to legally challenge MGNREGA repeal

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister questions the enactment of new legislation after the submission of a report by the 16th Finance Commission, and says that the Centre has enacted the Act without consulting States

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Building further on its opposition to the repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and enactment of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act by the Union government, Karnataka will explore legal possibilities to challenge the repeal.

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided not only to seek legal remedy, but also go to the "people's court" to highlight the "damage" to the Constitution's 73rd amendment that proposes decentralisation of power.

"Panchayats have approached the State government to seek legal remedy against the repeal of MGNREGA. After a detailed deliberations in the Cabinet, we have asked the Advocate-General to explore legal possibilities on whether to approach the High Court or the Supreme Court," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons in the post-Cabinet briefing. "We will take up both a political and a legal battle," he said.

A file photo of labourers working on a project in Kalaburagi under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Patil questioned the enactment of the new legislation after the submission of a report by the 16th Finance Commission, and said that the Centre has enacted the Act without consulting States. "Financial burden on States has also increased. The repeal of MGNREGA has hit the right to work, and will centralise powers. The Centre will now decide the nature of work to be taken up and in which village, thus denying panchayats their power," he added.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also decided to recommend the release of 33 prisoners on account of good behaviour. "Of the 33 prisoners whom the State Cabinet has recommended for release, the government will write to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in case of two prisoners who have been convicted in cases pertaining to firearms. We will make appropriate recommendations."

Other decisions

Other decisions of the Cabinet include, approval for a mega dairy in Kalaburagi at a cost of ₹50 crore; approval to construct regional Sahakara Bhavan in Kalaburagi at a cost of ₹10 crore, and installing busts of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi in Kalaburagi. When asked why were the busts being installed, he said: "It is to inspire those who do not know our history, struggles and contribution and sacrifices of Gandhiji."

Two-day session to discuss job scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a meeting with Congress legislators, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that the State government has decided to soon convene a two-day special legislature session to discuss the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA), which was repealed after the enactment of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G Ram G) Act by the NDA government recently.

The Congress government has urged the Centre to repeal the VB-G Ram G and restore the MGNREGA to guarantee the right to work for the rural poor, labourers, and women, and ensure livelihood.

Siddaramaiah urges Kerala Chief Minister to withdraw Malayalam Bhasha Bill 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after a Karnataka Border Area Development Authority delegation met Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to urge him to reject the Malayalam Bhasha Bill 2025, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday urged his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan to withdraw the Bill to protect the interests of Kannada-speaking linguistic minorities in Kerala.

Terming the Bill as an "attack on the linguistic freedom protected in the Constitution," he said: "We did not expect that the Communist government in Kerala would crush the basic rights of linguistic minorities. Though administratively Kasaragod belongs to Kerala, it is emotionally connected with Karnataka."

Commenting on social media platform X, he said that the Kerala government had every right to promote Malayalam, but it should not be at the cost of another language. He warned: "It is the responsibility of our government to protect the rights of Kannadigas. If the Kerala government tries to implement the Bill, Kannadigas will oppose it in unison and will stand in unity to support Kannadigas of Kasaragod."

Siddaramaiah

The trigger for the Chief Minister's statement is the passage of the Malayalam Bhasha Bill 2025 in the Kerala legislature that seeks to make Malayalam mandatory as first language upto class 10 in government and aided schools across Kerala. The delegation from the border area development authority on Wednesday met the Kerala Governor and petitioned him to reject the Bill by highlighting its impact on Kannada-speaking linguistic minorities.

Fearing that Kannadigas in Kerala, especially in Kasaragod, will lose opportunities to learn their mother tongue if the law was implemented, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Kannadigas in Kasaragod are part of Kannada culture and literature and they are no less than Kannadigas of Karnataka. Locals say that 70% of students like to learn in the Kannada medium. Mother tongue to a linguistic minority is not just a language but identity. Scientifically it has been proven that the learning is easy in mother tongue. Imposing any other language will not only bring down learning outcomes, but will also result in the death of the language."

He pointed out that Article 29 and Article 30 of the Constitution provides rights to protect language, script and culture, while Article 350(A) provides right to learnt in their mother tongue at the primary level and Article 350 ensures protection to linguistic minorities.

"In the light of constitutional provisions, no government should make effort to crush the rights of linguistic minorities. Every citizen with a belief in unity in diversity has the freedom to learn in mother tongue."

State to offer A-Khata status to B-Khata properties under urban local body limits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday decided to extend the relief to owners of properties in illegal/unauthorised layouts that is now under B-Khata in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies across Karnataka.

10 lakh properties

While about 10 lakh properties are estimated to benefit, the quantum of money to be collected by the State government to regularise the properties has not been estimated.

The relief is on the lines of an earlier announcement for properties in the Greater Bengaluru Authority region where the government is levying 5% of the guidance value to regularise sites. The scheme does not include regularisation of buildings that have deviated from building bylaws.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil addressing presspersons in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

According to Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, the scheme will be extended to B-Khata properties that includes sites, buildings, apartments, and flats that have not received approval from the respective planning authorities. T

he A-Khata will be issued subject to these properties taking approval from planning authorities, he added.

He said that the proposal is to restrict unauthorised developments and in the interest of public. A note said that it aims at restricting the sale of properties in layouts that have been formed without approval from the planning authorities, and to bring those layouts that have already been developed under the legal ambit.

When asked about the conditions, Mr. Patil said: "If we are to regularise, we will also penalise."

'Possibility of JD(S) merging with BJP soon'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday predicted that there is a possibility of the Janata Dal (Secular) merging with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) soon.

Speaking to reporters at the KPCC office after admitting JD(S) party workers from Chamarajpet into the Congress, Mr. Shivakumar said, "If we look at Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy's attitude, there is a possibility that the JD(S) will merge with the BJP soon. If it merges, it will be good for us too. We can also fight directly with the BJP. Then there will be no confusion of three parties in the game," Mr. Shivakumar said. The JD(S) and the BJP were in alliance for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and the JD(S) is part of the NDA government at the Centre.

JD(S) leader Govindaraj, his wife Gowramma, and others joined the Congress in the presence of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

The Deputy Chief Minister said that he was more experienced in politics, and there is no need for him to learn from Mr. Kumaraswamy. "I have worked as a Minister for a long time. I know how to govern and whom to and whom not to hold meetings with."

He was replying to Mr. Kumaraswamy's objections to the Deputy Chief Minister holding a meeting with police officials in Ballari, following the death of a Congress worker on January 1. Mr. Kumaraswamy and Mr. Shivakumar have been at loggerheads on several issues.

RDPR Dept. considering Singapore technology to ensure water quality

A pilot project will be taken up to study drinking water solutions, says Minister Priyank Kharge. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's RDPR Department is considering adopting technology from Singapore to ensure quality of drinking water through early detection of contamination before it is supplied to consumers.

On January 7, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge held consultations with representatives of ZWEEC, a Singapore-based company that that conducted extensive technological research to develop an intelligent bio-monitoring system for the early warning/detection of contamination in drinking water.

The Minister told the company representatives that a pilot project would be taken up to study the solutions on offer. He informed that the solutions offered by the company would be evaluated by the government of Karnataka.

HC orders technological overhaul of existing e-procurement system

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Flagging systemic vulnerabilities in the existing e-procurement processes for submission of bids for public works, the High Court of Karnataka has ordered a technological overhaul of the State's e-procurement infrastructure and mandated integration of high-level automation and real-time verification of tender documents to eliminate the systemic fraud currently plaguing the process.

The court said that all public procurement processes in Karnataka should mandate electronic submission of tender documents through the e-procurement portal.

Establish EPIs

Instead of transmitting documents, submitted by the bidders through the e-procurement portal, through manual intervention, the court said the State government should establish and operationalise Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) between the e-procurement portal and databases maintained various public authorities for auto-verifying the tender documents.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the directions while dismissing a petition filed by Anantha Krishna Shetty, a contractor. The petitioner had questioned his debarment, under the Rule 26A of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Rules, 2000, from participation in public tender process for submitting fabricated licences, non-existing work orders, and inflated work certificates while submitting a bid with Mangaluru City Corporation.

Pointing out that it is not an isolated instance of submission of forged tender documents, the court said such a trend has not only caused a huge loss to public exchequer but has also damaged integrity of the bidding system besides causing a surge in litigations. "The integrity of public procurement is not merely an administrative imperative but a constitutional mandate flowing from the principles of Article 14 (equality) and Article 19 of the Constitution, as it directly impacts the quality of public works, compliance with applicable rules, freedom to carry out trade and profession, and protection of public resources," the court observed.

Automatic verification

API integration should enabled with licensing and regulatory and financial authorities like Registrar of Companies, GST India Portal, Reserve Bank of India, banks and financial institutions, professional councils, boards, environmental agencies; and State-owned enterprises, smart city entities, infrastructure development boards, municipal corporations, gram panchayats, district administrations, etc., the court said.

Stating that the tender documents should be submitted in specified searchable formats of PDF/Excel, the court said tender documents should not merely be scanned files, but searchable and accompanied by key identifying details such as issuing authority, reference numbers, issue dates and validity periods as this metadata enables automatic matching with the database of various regulatory and financial authorities without requiring manual intervention.

Tracking

The e-procurement portal, the court said, should maintain a real-time analytics dashboard accessible to the State Finance Department and other authorities concerned to track department0wise false document frequency, document type vulnerability, verification success rate, debarred contractors, repeat violators, etc.

'Stranger can't be booked under Section 498A of IPC'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A stranger or neighbour cannot be drawn into the proceedings for offences under Section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), said the High Court of Karnataka.

The court gave this finding while quashing a criminal case against Asha, 37, who is the neighbour of a man, whose wife had filed a complaint of dowry harassment and cruelty against him, his mother-in-law, and maternal uncle.

The complainant-wife had also included the name of the petitioner-woman, alleging that she was also instrumental in making her husband behave rudely with her. The police had filed the chargesheet against her along with the husband and his relatives.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna said that permitting further proceedings against this petitioner would become an abuse of the process of the law and result in miscarriage of justice as the Supreme Court had categorically held that it is not permissible to bring non-relatives in the proceedings initiated under Section 498A.

The High Court also referred to a judgment of the SC, which held that "reference to the word relative in Section 498A, IPC, would be limited only to blood relations or relations by marriage."

INBRIEF

Four students killed as car rams tree in Telangana

Four students were killed and one sustained injuries after the car they were travelling in rammed a tree near Mirzaguda Gate in Chevella, Telangana, in the early hours of Thursday. Of the deceased, three were students of ICFAI Business School (IBS), while one was an engineering student at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology. The fifth occupant, who was a BBA student at IBS, sustained injuries in the crash and was shifted to a private hospital in Gachibowli.

Threat mails to blow up 4 A.P. courts turn out to be a hoax

E-mails threatening to blow up four courts in Andhra Pradesh kept the police on their toes on Thursday. However, the threats turned out to be a hoax as hours-long search operations did not find any explosive material from these court premises. These e-mails claimed that bombs were planted in the courts in Eluru, Anantapur and Madanapalli and Chittoor. "We searched the court premises thoroughly. Neither bombs nor explosive material were found," Eluru District Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore.

ED officer who probed gold smuggling case made to retire

Enforcement Directorate (ED) Deputy Director P. Radhakrishnan, who probed politically significant cases such as the diplomatic gold smuggling and the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board case, has been reportedly forced to go on compulsory retirement from the service. He had made crucial arrests, including that of M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister.

MGNREGA repeal: Revanth plans Statewide agitation

Chief Minister sees deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken the poor by targeting the scheme and voter rights; massive public meetings planned in nine districts from February 3

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy sensed a deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken the poor by targeting the MGNREGA and voter rights, and announced that massive public meetings would be held in nine districts from February 3, with senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to be invited to a major rally in Mulugu.

Addressing party leaders and workers at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, Mr. Reddy said that nearly 80% of India's 140-crore population depended on MGNREGA and accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government of using its legislative strength to undermine the poor.

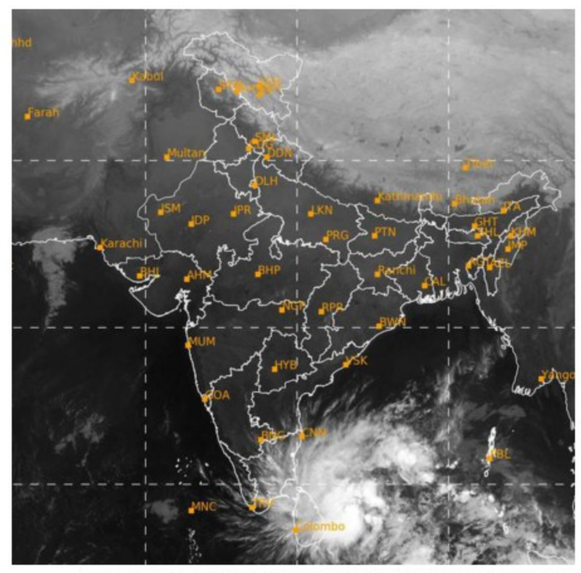
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

The Central government proposed to replace MGNREGA with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB G-RAM G Bill, which was passed in Parliament. The Bill received President's assent on December 21, 2025. The Chief Minister said the [MGNREGA] scheme introduced by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Ms. Sonia Gandhi during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, had restored dignity and self-respect to millions and reminded that the Telugu States had played a key role in its launch and implementation.

The Chief Minister announced a Statewide agitation against changes to MGNREGA, noting that the Telangana Assembly had already passed a unanimous resolution opposing the move. He called for gram sabhas in every village to pass resolutions against the proposed law from January 20 to 30.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	23.2	9.5	Kozhikode	—	33.6	22.5
Ahmedabad	—	26.5	14.4	Kurnool	—	30.5	16.2
Aizawl	—	26.4	11.8	Lucknow	—	16.9	6.4
Allahabad	—	11.4	6.0	Madurai	—	31.3	19.6
Bengaluru	—	25.5	14.9	Mangaluru	—	33.0	21.9
Bhopal	—	27.2	9.0	Mumbai	—	32.1	16.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.1	9.4	Mysuru	—	27.2	14.4
Chandigarh	—	16.1	7.6	New Delhi	—	17.5	5.8
Chennai	—	29.1	24.0	Patna	—	14.9	9.1
Coimbatore	—	29.2	17.4	Port Blair	—	29.8	26.3
Dehradun	—	21.6	4.4	Puducherry	—	28.2	20.3
Gangtok	—	16.4	6.6	Pune	—	29.7	14.5
Goa	—	33.6	20.5	Raipur	—	27.7	12.4
Guwahati	—	24.6	11.6	Ranchi	—	21.8	8.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	13.0	Shillong	—	17.0	7.0
Hyderabad	—	27.6	13.1	Shimla	—	16.4	4.0
Imphal	—	22.9	7.7	Srinagar	—	11.1	-5.1
Jaipur	—	19.0	4.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	22.8
Kochi	—	31.4	23.0	Tiruchi	—	29.3	20.4
Kohima	—	15.2	6.0	Vijayawada	—	29.0	17.2
Kolkata	—	23.8	11.0	Visakhapatnam	—	27.4	18.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.80	..77	.70	...166	...157	
Bengaluru	...4	..19	.38	...165	...207	
Chennai	...6	3	.52	98	...118	
Delhi	.48	..61	111	...317	...283	
Hyderabad	.12	..16	.72	...102	...123	
Kolkata	.18	..48	.29	...266	...207	
Lucknow	...8	..44	.89	...219	...223	
Mumbai	.23	107	.11	...186	...126	
Pune	..—	..62	.37	...235	...200	
Visakhapatnam	.21	..59	.39	93	...122	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chikkaballapur, Karnataka recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 309 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Fake social media accounts of Jayanagar MLA used to cheat public; case registered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South Division Cybercrime Police have registered an FIR against an unknown person for misusing the name and identity of Jayanagar MLA, C.K. Ramamurthy, to create social media accounts to cheat people.

Based on a complaint filed by Mr. Ramamurthy, the police registered a case regarding misuse of social media platforms for cheating and spreading false information, on Tuesday.

According to the complaint, fake Facebook and Instagram accounts were created using his name and photographs without his consent.

These fake accounts were allegedly used to contact the public and other individuals, seeking money under false pretences and sending misleading and abusive messages.

The accused reportedly sent false, defamatory and objectionable messages through these fake social media profiles, causing financial loss to victims and damage to the complainant's reputation, dignity and social standing.

'To damage career'

According to Mr. Ramamurthy, the hackers sent "good morning" messages to a woman. He later told the media that the act was aimed at damaging his political career.

It is further alleged that the fake Facebook and Instagram accounts were misused to collect money illegally, thereby causing serious harm to public trust and the complainant's personal image.

A case has been registered under Section 66D (cheating by personation using computer resources) of the IT Act.

Toll rises to 8 in sugar factory boiler accident in Belagavi

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Toll in Wednesday's fire accident at Inamdar Sugars in Marakumbi village of Belagavi district has risen to eight, with five workers dying in hospital on Thursday.

Raghavendra Mallappa Giriyala, Manjunath Kajagar of Aravalli, Bharatesh Sarawadi of Godachinmalki, Manjunath Terdal of Athani and Gurupadappa Tammannavar of Maraguddi village, who suffered serious injuries in the boiler accident, are the deceased.

Earlier, Akshay Topad, Deepak Munnoli and Sudarshan Banoshi died of burns caused by spilling of concentrated hot sugar liquid during repairs to a blocked valve.

Superintendent of Police K. Ramarajan told reporters in Belagavi on Thursday that *prima facie*, it seemed like an act of negligence on the part of the workers and senior officers.

"Three officers, heading the departments of engineering, technical maintenance and processing in the sugar factory have been booked. As per the complaint, they failed to take safety precautions before allowing the workers and technicians to carry out repairs. We have registered an FIR under BNS provisions relating to rash and negligent act, negligence with respect to machinery and causing death by negligence. Further investigation is on. We will revise the FIR and include the names of those who are found responsible for the accident," he said.

Vibrant hues

A decorated lighthouse near the venue of the two-day Indian Lighthouse Festival in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The festival, scheduled to be inaugurated on Friday evening, is being organised with the aim of promoting lighthouses as tourism destinations. K.R. DEEPAK

MSC Elsa 3 owner deposits ₹1,227.62 cr. to free sister vessel

John L. Paul
KOCHI

The owner firm of container ship *MSC Elsa 3* that sank off the Kerala coast in May 2025 has deposited a compensation of ₹1,227.62 crore with the High Court as bank guarantee, following which the court permitted the release of its sister vessel *MSC Akiteta-2*.

The sister vessel that had been detained off Vizhinjam following a court order of November 11, has thus left the port. A Bench of Justice M.A. Abdul Hakhim posted the matter (regarding compensation) for hearing on February 13.

The court had in September reduced the security amount that had to be paid by the owners of *MSC Elsa 3* from ₹9,531 crore to ₹1,227.62 crore. It thus modified its July 7 order, in an admiralty suit filed by the State government, following which *MSC Akiteta-2* was detained at Vizhinjam.

The government had claimed the compensation for the marine and coastal pollution and the loss caused to fishers after the sinking of the ship, following which the court had ordered the conditional arrest of its sister vessel till the compensation was paid.

The containers from *MSC Elsa 3* that sank in the Kochi outer washed ashore near Kollam Sakthikulangara coast last year. FILE PHOTO

Kerala Opposition leader meets bishops ahead of State polls

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Wednesday evening paid an unofficial visit to St. Thomas Mount, the Kakkanad-based headquarters of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, where the 34th Synod is currently in progress.

Reports suggest that he held discussions with Major Archbishop Mar Joseph Thattil and other bishops present for the Synod.

While Mr. Satheesan was unavailable for comment on the purpose of the visit, Church sources confirmed it but declined to disclose the details of the discussions, describing it only as an informal meeting.

The visit has gained significance with Assembly elections just a few months away.

Although the meeting took place on Wednesday night, it came to light only on Thursday morning.

Earlier on Wednesday, the 34th Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church was inaugurated by Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil. The Synod Assembly began on Tuesday with a spiritual session.

The meeting will conclude on January 10, with 53 bishops from India and abroad participating.

Ahead of Makaravilakku fest, Erumely teems with festive spirit as foreign tourists join pilgrims' rituals

Hiran Unnikrishnan
KOTTAYAM

With their faces painted in bright colours and peacock plumes in hand, a group of pilgrims danced through the streets of Erumely. As they moved onto another street, a group of foreign tourists, adorned with elaborate crowns, joined in. The drumbeats rose to a crescendo as the lively crowd gradually made their way to the Nainar Mosque.

These scenes have become increasingly common in Erumely these days, with a growing number of international tourists visiting Kerala stopping by this temple town, which is already alive with festive spirit.

Foreign tourists watching Sabarimala pilgrims moving through the streets of Erumely . SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With just days remaining before the Petta Thullal and Chandanakkudam ceremonies, followed by the Makaravilakku festival at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, many visitors are keen to experience the celebrations here. They are also seen capturing photographs amid the milling crowd of pilgrims, draped in the customary black attire.

The trend is largely attributed to increasing media coverage highlighting the town's unique display of communal harmony. Most of the visiting tourists are Europeans, drawn to Erumely, located on the eastern outskirts of the district, a key base for their onward journeys to Kumily or Munnar.

"There appears to be growing tourist interest during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season in Erumely, which serves as a key base for these pilgrims. We have been receiving several groups of foreign visitors who stop by to explore the town and even participate in the rituals," says Mithulaj Puthenveettil, secretary of the Erumely Mahallu Muslim Jama-ath.

The primary attraction for foreign visitors seems to be the celebration of religious harmony, where two temples and a mosque stand close by, and pilgrims honouring all of them in their rituals. " Many are fascinated to capture on camera the unique sight of Ayyappa devotees circumambulating a Muslim mosque," he added.

Information source

Police stationed at various points in the town have become the main source of information for visitors, answering questions about safety, key issues, and must-visit locations.

Confirming the trend, an official with the Travancore Devaswom Board says that during the Chandanakkudam festival and the historically renowned Petta Thullal of Ambalappuzha and Alangad teams, large numbers of foreign tourists flock to Erumely.

Conditional ease

The CDSCO guidelines should not regress into a 'pay and pass' scheme

The new guidelines to compound minor drug violations that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has released, operationalise a legal change in the works since 2023. Until recently, many instances of relatively minor or technical non-compliance under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, invoked criminal prosecution. The new guidance and standard operating procedures are meant to standardise compounding instead, whereby, at the regulator's discretion, firms can settle certain offences by reporting them and applying to pay a fine, instead of litigating. The legal backdrop is the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act that was framed as an exercise in "decriminalising and rationalising offences ... for ease of living and doing business". In the 1940 Act, Jan Vishwas broadened the scope of Section 32B by adding heads into the group of offences that could be compounded; this now includes making a drug to sell or distribute in breach of the 1940 Act but not covered by its Section 27(a-c) and stocking or exhibiting such a non-spurious or non-adulterated drug, among others. If compounding is granted and paid for, the key benefit is "immunity from prosecution" for that case, subject to conditions. This change is for the better if the regulatory apparatus implements it in good faith. For offences based on record keeping and disclosure, compounding prevents needless criminalisation and lets enforcement focus on direr violations.

The main pitfalls are the guidelines regressing into a 'pay and pass' scheme and the CDSCO's transparency. Firms can seek compounding "before or after" prosecution. If, however, the CDSCO does not publish (even redacted) compounding orders and the underlying case details, the public may lose faith in the legal proceedings and in the regulator. Even if repeat offenders cannot avail of the benefit, there needs to be a publicly auditable trail. The guidance's emphasis on discretion and conditions cannot substitute for public reporting that lets independent actors check whether the same firms are repeat offenders. Similarly, the published process does not create room for consumer groups or whistleblowers to make representations before immunity is granted. Next, the way the errors that can be compounded are written is broad enough in practice to cover a wide range of behaviours, from lapses in paperwork to more substantive compliance failures. If the compounding fines are also set too low, applied inconsistently or used routinely in place of deterrence, compliance will only falter. Perhaps most of all, the CDSCO also needs to link compounding to corrective and preventive actions, follow-up inspections, and, where relevant, public-facing actions such as issuing alerts or directing firms to recall products. Otherwise, there may not be a durable reduction in risk over time.

Shrill reactions

India's cricket is being held hostage to political compulsions

Caught in a crossfire, India's cricketing ties with its subcontinental neighbours are in a free fall. If border tensions with Pakistan and the scourge of terrorism affected sporting links across the Wagah, turbulence within Bangladesh and extreme reactions to it within India, have turned out to be another stumbling block. The ghastly lynching of members of the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh drew rightful condemnation across the Indian landscape, and yet the reflexive sporting churn should have been avoided. In a social media age wherein violence and insults tend to get amplified, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) responded prematurely in forcing Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to release its Bangladeshi left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman. That the Indian Premier League (IPL) is only commencing on March 26 and much water would have flowed down by then in the Ganges and the Padma, was lost on the officials. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was quick in its rejoinder. A security threat to its squad was propped up as an excuse and a missive was sent to the International Cricket Council (ICC) to relocate Bangladesh's games in the forthcoming ICC T20 World Cup, away from host India. Bangladesh also proposed a ban on the telecast of the IPL in the country.

With the T20 World Cup launching on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka, a last minute scrambling for venues will be difficult. Incidentally, Pakistan's games are slotted in Sri Lanka and even its big contest against India will be staged at Colombo on February 15. With Bangladesh set to play four preliminary league games in India, a reallocation will affect hosting logistics. This is a conundrum that could have been avoided had the BCCI waited for the hostile tide to turn. The ties that bind India and Bangladesh, a nation birthed through the assistance of the former in 1971, now stand frayed. Diplomacy is a complex interplay of adjustment and pragmatism. The deposed former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought refuge and was granted one in Delhi, while the Indian government also paid its last respects to her arch-rival and former Prime Minister, the late Khaleda Zia. The ICC chairman, Jay Shah, has an unenviable task of maintaining neutrality while dealing with the present crisis. The shrill reactions on either side of the border need to be tempered; sport should not be handcuffed by political compulsions.

GSDP share as criterion for central-State transfers

K.R. Shanmugam
is Economic Consultant, Government of Tamil Nadu, and former Director, Madras School of Economics

Sankarganesh Karuppiah
is an IRS officer

The central government shares its gross tax revenues with States based on the recommendations of successive Finance Commissions (FCs), which determine both the overall share to States and the formula for tax devolution. The Centre also transfers resources through grants-in aid and centrally sponsored schemes (CSS). While the recommendations of 15 FCs have been implemented, those of the 16th FC have yet to be tabled in Parliament.

Central transfers have become a subject of intense debate. Key concerns include the erosion of the fiscal autonomy of States following the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), revenue losses arising from GST rate cuts, the increasing dominance of CSS that constraint State-level spending flexibility, the Centre's growing cesses and surcharges that are not shared with States, and declining devolution shares of high-performing States. Moreover, most FCs have prioritised equity over efficiency, having relied heavily on debatable criteria such as income distance and population, and frequently altered the weights assigned to these variables. Significant regional disparities also persist across States in expenditure needs and fiscal capacity.

Tax collection versus tax contribution

States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu argue that they contribute disproportionately to central tax revenues but receive relatively smaller shares through tax devolution. This claim, however, is often contested on the grounds that direct tax figures reflect the location of collections rather than the actual place where income is generated. Individuals and companies may pay taxes in locations different from where economic activity occurs.

For example, automobile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu may sell vehicles across India, but their tax payments are recorded in the State where their registered office is located. Similarly, plantation companies in Kerala earn profits nationwide, though taxes are paid in Kerala.

Therefore, jurisdiction based on PAN data fails to accurately capture State-wise contributions to direct taxes. This is due to the presence of multi-State firms, labour migration, temporary or multi-location work arrangements, and the absence of detailed data on inter-State transactions among associated enterprises. Therefore, an indirect and more reliable proxy is needed to estimate the accrual of central taxes at the State level.

GSDP as proxy for State-level tax accrual

Although the Centre levies direct taxes, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) represents the underlying tax base within each State. If tax administration efficiency is broadly uniform across States and the ratio of direct tax revenue to GSDP does not vary significantly, a State's share in national GSDP can reasonably approximate its contribution to central tax revenues. Since the GST is destination-based and the principal source of indirect taxation, its attribution across States is relatively uncontroversial.

Empirical evidence supports this approach. Using 2023-24 data, the correlation between States' GSDP and direct tax collections is 0.75, while the correlation between GSDP and GST collections is as high as 0.91. This strong relationship suggests that GSDP share is a meaningful indicator of the accrual of central taxes at the State level.

From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Centre devolved 41% of its gross tax revenues to States in line with the 15th FC's recommendations, along with additional transfers through grants-in-aid and CSS. According to the Ministry of Finance (Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 236, dated December 2, 2025), total transfers during this five-year period amounted to ₹ 75.12 lakh crore (*see Table*).

Uttar Pradesh received the largest share of transfers (15.81%), followed by Bihar (8.65%), and West Bengal (6.96%). However, these States accounted for only 4.6%, 0.67% and 3.99%, respectively, of combined direct tax and GST collections. In contrast, Maharashtra contributed the highest share of tax collections (40.3%), but received only 6.64% of total transfers. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu contributed 12.65% and 7.61%, while receiving 3.9% and 4.66%, respectively. Haryana (1.1%), Himachal Pradesh (1.58%) and Uttarakhand (1.65%) received low shares of transfers, despite contributing 5.39%, 0.43% and 0.81%, respectively.

The 15th FC's devolution shares show an almost perfect correlation (0.99) with actual transfers over the five-year period, but a weak correlation (0.24) with tax collection shares. By contrast, GSDP shares display a high correlation with tax collections (0.81) and a moderate correlation with devolution shares (0.58). This suggests that GSDP strikes a balance between efficiency, by reflecting tax contributions, and equity, by allowing redistribution.

Only in Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra, the GSDP share is less than tax collection share, likely due to the concentrations of registered offices of multi-State firms. In Tamil Nadu, GSDP share exceeds tax collections, reflecting production activity whose tax payments are recorded elsewhere.

Gainers, losers under a GSDP-based formula

If total central transfers were distributed purely on the basis of GSDP shares, nine of the 20 major States would gain. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu would benefit the most, while Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh would experience the largest reductions. Importantly, these gains and losses would be moderate, as GSDP shares differ less sharply from tax collection shares than current devolution outcomes.

A higher weight for GSDP share would better reflect the accrual of central tax revenues, acknowledge the contributions of States to national income, and improve the perceived fairness and the credibility of India's inter-governmental fiscal transfer system.

The views expressed are personal

GSDP share is a meaningful indicator of the accrual of central taxes at the State level

Central tax collections, transfers and GSDP

GSDP, reflecting accrual of central taxes, strikes a balance between efficiency and equity in tax devolution

State-wise direct tax and gross GST collections, central transfers and GSDP from 2020-21 to 2024-25

States	Direct tax and GST collection		Central transfers		FC devolution	GSDP		Transfers using GSDP share	Loss or gain
	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	% share	(₹ lakh crore)	(₹ lakh crore)
Andhra Pradesh	3.32	2.97	3.23	4.30	4.07	64.35	4.97	3.74	0.51
Assam	0.75	0.67	2.93	3.90	3.13	24.48	1.89	1.42	-1.51
Bihar	0.76	0.68	6.5	8.65	10.06	38.48	2.97	2.23	-4.27
Chhattisgarh	1.68	1.50	2.36	3.14	3.41	23.03	1.78	1.34	-1.02
Gujarat	7.69	6.88	2.55	3.39	3.48	108.38	8.37	6.29	3.74
Haryana	6.02	5.39	0.83	1.10	1.09	48.82	3.77	2.83	2.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.48	0.43	1.19	1.58	0.83	9.58	0.74	0.56	-0.63
Jharkhand	1.58	1.41	2.22	2.96	3.31	20.69	1.60	1.20	-1.02
Karnataka	14.14	12.65	2.93	3.90	3.65	113.94	8.80	6.61	3.68
Kerala	1.81	1.62	2.03	2.70	1.93	51.19	3.96	2.97	0.94
Madhya Pradesh	2.17	1.94	5.56	7.40	7.85	61.26	4.73	3.56	-2.00
Maharashtra	40.3	36.06	4.99	6.64	6.32	179.83	13.90	10.44	5.45
Odisha	2.61	2.34	3.32	4.42	4.53	36.40	2.81	2.11	-1.21
Punjab	1.47	1.32	1.57	2.09	1.81	34.71	2.68	2.02	0.45
Rajasthan	2.83	2.53	4.57	6.08	6.03	67.96	5.25	3.94	-0.63
Tamil Nadu	8.5	7.61	3.5	4.66	4.08	120.41	9.30	6.99	3.49
Telangana	4.32	3.87	1.84	2.45	2.10	64.81	5.01	3.76	1.92
Uttar Pradesh	5.14	4.60	11.88	15.81	17.94	116.28	8.98	6.75	-5.13
Uttarakhand	0.9	0.81	1.24	1.65	1.12	14.84	1.15	0.86	-0.38
West Bengal	4.46	3.99	5.23	6.96	7.52	74.64	5.77	4.33	-0.90
8 small States	0.82	0.73	4.63	6.16	5.79	20.07	1.55	1.17	-3.46
Total	**111.75**	**100.00**	**75.12**	**100.00**	**100.02**	**1294.15**	**100.00**	**75.12**	**0.00**

Top court's green governance, cause for uncertainty

Vasudevan Mukunth

Over the last decade, the Supreme Court of India has increasingly moved from reviewing the legality of administrative decisions to issuing forward-looking directions mimicking regulation in important environmental cases. This shift has emerged in a series of matters in which regulators have dropped the ball, pulling the Court into a managerial role. But the Court has then compounded the problem by continuing to substitute for the regulator instead of correcting the regulator's process and stepping back.

This tendency to remain involved, especially within a single continuing mandamus across domains, has consequences for regulated actors, the state, and the people, and needs to be tempered.

Rulings and shifts

In June 2022, the Court laid down that protected areas across India should have an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of at least one kilometre from their boundaries. But in April 2023, the Court modified the direction and said the rule would not apply where the Environment Ministry had already issued ESZ notifications, partly because States had argued that the blanket rule was hard to implement.

Earlier, in December 2015, the Court had banned the registration of private diesel cars and sport utility vehicles with an engine capacity of 2,000 cc or more in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). However, by August 2016, it lifted the embargo and replaced it with a charge to compensate, reported widely as 1%-2% on the ex-showroom price. In 2025, the Court again started with a broad protection that was easy to articulate, calling for no-coercive action against owners of diesel or petrol vehicles that were more than 10 or 15 years old, respectively. Then the Court narrowed the rule by restricting action only against those vehicles below the Bharat Stage-IV standard.

The firecracker matter followed the same trajectory. The Court sometimes imposed a near-total ban in the NCR because of air pollution, only to relax it around specific festivals and limited categories such as "green crackers", in both instances citing enforcement constraints and public order realities.

While fragmented enforcement, delayed notifications, poor monitoring and ad hoc exemptions left gaps that invited judicial intervention, the Court has often responded by stepping into the regulator's shoes rather than by holding regulators to their statutory duties.

In these matters, the Court's justification has often shifted from being rooted in legality to that in consequences. In May 2025, in *Vanashakti vs Union of India*, the Court said ex post facto environmental clearances run against core environmental principles. But in November, it recalled that position in a review, with the majority judgment expressing concerns about disrupting ongoing commercial activity. In these instances, the Court's impulse to govern caused it to treat a doctrinal statement as the starting point and to manage the fallout later.

The issue of expertise

'Expertise' has also been a source of support as well as dispute once the Court starts issuing forward-looking directives. In the Aravalli matter, for instance, the Court's November 20 order adopted a unified definition for "Aravalli hills and ranges" in the context of controlling mining, based on a committee's findings. Within weeks, however, it placed that order in abeyance and moved to constitute a new committee after concerns that the definition would have unintended legal effects. In the ESZ issue as well, a uniform buffer sounded decisive at first but once stakeholders realised that the ecological basis and feasibility varied considerably across landscapes, the rule met with resistance. The Court has used expert inputs to compensate for its limits but has also contested expertise. This push-pull relationship, while implicitly not a bad thing, has also set the stage for U-turns.

Perhaps where the Court conducting itself as an approving authority has bitten the hardest is the consequences for public challenge. As environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta has argued, project proponents and governments have been forced to approach the Court for permissions even before statutory authorities have finished examining a project, at the same time conferring a sense of finality that discourages contestation later. The bigger problem here is not that the Court may get a technical detail wrong but that its early entry into the approval process can smother meaningful judicial review in other fora. As a result, when the Court modifies an older rule, it also reshapes who is heard and on what evidentiary basis.

Need for stability

Many of these disputes also sit inside continuing mandamus structures – serial interim directions, committee reports, affidavits, and modifications – so it has been easy for the Court to correct course but often at the expense of stability. Instead, the Court should consider adopting a steadier hand, i.e., protecting the environment by disciplining the state back into regulation. It can do this by specifying thresholds for when it will issue managerial directions and insisting on time-bound regulatory action with reasons and public data, while retaining its prerogative to review legality and procedures. It can also reduce uncertainty by avoiding sweeping rules that also immediately invite exceptions and by explaining in advance what kinds of evidence or implementation constraints would justify modification.

This way, regulated actors will deal with strict rather than negotiable rules, governments will not have to contend with parallel decision-making, and the people will know where and how to contest activities that render environmental harm.

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The Supreme Court should protect the environment by disciplining the state back into regulation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump and his actions

U.S. President Donald Trump's classifications of foreign relations fall into 'Very Happy', 'Very Unhappy' and 'Others'. National leaders of the first category are escorted with great ceremony to be his guests in the U.S. for as long as he wants. They attain their nirvana. Those in the last category are his playmates in games such as hide and seek or boxing practice. Here only Ukraine's Zelenskyy finds himself in switched classifications and neither he nor Mr. Trump is clear on this, while the rest seem to be enjoying it all till it lasts. It is those in Mr. Trump's 'Very Unhappy' group who find themselves free of the passing fancies of a President who is yet to learn separating business from pastime. It enables them to go about their own business and, in the process, clock enviable GDP.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

The actions by the United States under President Trump are totally against international law and the United Nations charter. Mr. Trump's 'claim' over Greenland exposes the 'Hitler in Trump'. One wonders what more lies ahead in his strange expansionist plans. It is time that like-minded nations joined hands, and under the auspices of the UN, to end the evil designs of America.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan,
Singapore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is the 10-minute delivery model necessary?

PARLEY

Prashant Kamal
National general secretary, Yuva Hallabol

Kamal Karanth
Co-founder of XPheno, a specialist staffing company

On December 31, more than a lakh gig and platform workers held a strike. In a memorandum to Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, their unions demanded that the 10 to 20-minute service delivery system be immediately withdrawn to prioritise worker safety. The Union government sees the four Labour Codes, which were implemented recently, as a solution to the problems of gig workers, especially for bringing them into the ambit of social security. **Kamal Karanth** and **Prashant Kamal** discuss this topic in a conversation moderated by **A.M. Jigeesh**. Edited excerpts:

What are the major concerns over 10 to 20 minutes delivery?

Prashant Kamal: The debate around gig workers' plight is not just about 10-minute delivery. There is so much beyond that. A few powerful people are deliberately trying to make it a binary between consumers' comfort and gig workers' misery. The 10-minute delivery is not a need of consumer, it's a competition. Zepto started it, Blinkit, Amazon, Swiggy, Instamart and others followed it. There is no real difference between the delivery of groceries in 10 minutes or say 20-30 minutes. But there is a huge difference for the person delivering it. I have three points to make here. First, this is not just software that runs the system. It only works because a massive human workforce which is kept under unstable pay, changing rules, and the constant threat of getting their IDs blocked by an app. Second, do we allow these logic in other industries? Speed is not created by technology. It is extracted from real people. Third, let's look at the economics. Tech costs are considered a given and they are protected. Marketing budgets are treated as a given and are protected. So, why only labour is treated as adjustable? Who is really paying here for the 10-minute delivery?

Kamal Karanth: Going by the volumes and dependency, it seems that it's a model that is becoming a part of our lives. Given the demand generated by a few of these companies, I would like to believe that it has created itself as a necessity. From 2024 to 2027, quick commerce has grown threefold – from ₹50,000 crore in 2025, it's closing in to ₹1 lakh crore to ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next two years. Industry is growing at 28%. Online grocery market is expected to grow at almost 40% to 50%.

From a delivery platform's point of view, creating a crore of a jobs requires at least five years. In India, 20 million people are passing out to make way for the workforce coming in, and we are hardly able to create two million jobs for them every year. So, in the context of people who do not have high skills but need a job, I think it's a huge gap that these platforms have fulfilled. So we should ask the primary question, is some job better than no job?

Food delivery workers waiting outside a restaurant. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

What ideally should be the regulatory framework for platforms and gig economy?

KK: Globally, it's considered that India's labour laws are one of the most protected, means that full-time employees have greater amount of protection when it comes to the regulation we had. But when it comes to gig, because it was a new concept, it was not covered [in regulations] to a great extent. But now I think the regulators are getting into the act of saying worker protection is important. But if you make it like a full-time employment, then I guess the gig will lose the shine of it. Considering many of them work full time in this, there should be possibly more flexibility provided in the form of any protection. But making it completely a full-time employment may actually kill the model

PK: Studies have shown that 80% of workers engaged with gigs and platforms are working full time. For millions, this is their primary livelihood. They are asking for predictable minimum income, fair pay, protection from sudden ID blocks and for clear rules for pay and penalties. They're asking for basic safety cover. They're asking for data transparency. Platforms set prices, they decide who gets work, they control ratings, they can switch people off overnight. If you control the work, you must carry obligations. That means a minimum earning for accident insurance, pensions; or at least there should be a process

> Studies have shown that 80% of gig workers engaged are working full time. They ask for basic safety cover and data transparency. If you control work, you must carry obligations
> **PRASHANT KAMAL**

before blocking or punishing workers. So this is not a radical demand. This is where the world is going. India cannot keep pretending that platforms are just like software, and if you can switch someone's income off with an algorithm, you must carry legal responsibility as well.

Are Labour Codes sufficient to create a social security system for gig workers?

PK: No. They came very late and highly insufficient. The Code is vague and non-mandatory in nature. The Code authorises few welfare programmes like accident insurance, maternity benefits and all, but it doesn't make them mandatory or enforceable right away. Gig workers have to register themselves on e-SHRAM portal, get an ID card, but they get no tangible benefits like covered hospital bills or pensions. They offer a social security scheme but no broader labour rights, and explicitly exclude gig workers from being classified as employees. This means no access to minimum wages, regulated working hours, paid leaves or overtime pay or collective bargaining under other Labour Codes.

Thirdly, the funding provisions for social security are inadequate. There is a vagueness on exact rates, enforcements and how funds shall be allocated. The most important thing is [there is] no regulation of algorithmic practices. The actual problem that the workers face here is the blind spots where they face lack of transparency. Algorithm controls task assignment, who gets the work, and incentives, ratings, and even de-activations. These black boxes cause stress, unfair penalties, and income instabilities. But the Code nowhere mandates transparency, accountability, or appeals against algorithmic decisions. So workers are at the mercy of technology that prioritises profit over fairness, and there is no mechanism for grievance redressal and dispute resolution.

KK: I think even in a full-time employment in the private world today, there is no such guarantee. There is no such transparency. Let us see how many of the workers will remain if gig works are made permanent. There is an attrition of 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh workers who are leaving and joining somewhere else every month. Instead of killing the golden goose, which is growing, I think what India should focus on is creating more employment opportunities.. The Labour Codes are still evolving as of now. I think when they come up with something stronger, we possibly can qualify it further.

A NITI Aayog report envisages that about 2.35 crores will join the gig economy by 2029-2030. So, what is the future of these platforms and gig workers in the background of everyday changes that AI and the technological innovations bring?

KK: I think we should protect what are the good things of it, possibly engage with platforms more than disrupting their business models and saying, how can we bring social security and allow the otherwise unskilled people to get a job? I think we have no recourse.

AI will come in, AI will work for, I think, more entry-level repeat tasks which can get automated. So, I don't think the current model of this gig platforms that are employing gig workers will get disrupted in the short term. Having said that, manufacturing is a sector that we are focusing on very strongly as a country. And manufacturing does not create overnight jobs like a tech sector did in the past. The faster movement is in the quick commerce sector, and we should do everything to protect it.

PK: The huge crisis of unemployment cannot be addressed without improving our manufacturing sectors, particularly those sectors which are labour-intensive. So, government should make policies to improve these sectors.

I think if you don't change the rules and the way we think, the future of gig workers is very brutal. AI will bring more control, less voice, and more people living one algorithm update away from losing their income. Today, a delivery worker can be switched off by an app, or tomorrow AI will be deciding that faster, cheaper, and at a larger scale. So, no conversation, no explanation, no appeal, just a silent drop in orders, then nothing. So, AI will make platforms efficient at replacing people, rotating people, and squeezing more work out of whoever is still logged in. That means workers become more disposable, like not more secure.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Reporting from a red light area

An assignment in Sonagachi busted the myth about the place, showing the women there as just another section of working members of society

Shrabana Chatterjee

As a resident of Kolkata, I always knew that Sonagachi in north Kolkata has the largest red light area in Asia. But, in my mind it existed only as a concept, a myth almost. Little did I know what it amounted to, even though I was born and brought up in the same city. These were the parts no one talked about, the "other neighbourhood" as Bengalis put it, which people either mentioned with a mischievous smile or with an uncomfortable silence.

When I stepped into an ambitious reporting assignment, the myth dissolved and real people came through in these densely populated bylanes of Sonagachi where over 12,000 sex workers reside across 700 buildings and thousands of single-room homes. Their lives unfold in one of the busiest parts of the city, so it is not hidden; it is simply ignored.

As an outsider, I was acutely aware of being watched. As I walked through Sonagachi on a rainy day, the smell of alcohol, cigarettes, fried food, and fresh rainwater mixed into an unsettling cocktail. Many doors opened as women exchanged whispers about who I was.

These women have been violated by many in their lives, by clients, by family members, by systems meant to protect them, and often by journalists who arrive seeking "stories" without consent or care. So, they are sceptical about sharing their stories; suspicion has become a survival instinct. It took me months of trust building to even get them to speak a few words with me. Over the years, they have met so many journalists. They now see through them and how their stories are all about headlines, stereotypes, or statistics for many in the media.

Once I did manage to break through the many layers of walls they have around themselves to protect their privacy, they asked me to put my phone away and not take pictures and respect their personal space. With my phone inside my bag, I had no recording device, so the good old notebook and pen came to the rescue as I listened, observed, and wrote down bits and pieces of what I saw.

Over these three months of reporting on this single story, I was humbled. Somewhere in that process, a lesson that journalism schools repeat but rarely prepare you for–no one owes us their story–got drilled into my head.

I interviewed over six sex workers, went to their homes which is also their place of business, sat with them, had tea, and listened to their stories for hours. Slowly realising, every single one of them is a very resilient woman, living their life with honesty and dignity. They are not looking for sympathy. They are only looking to be treated as equals in society. As they put it, "We work with our bodies, like every other labourer, why can't we have workers' rights?"

As an outsider and as a journalist, it is not my duty to pretend and try to look like an insider and force myself into the story. It is always best to maintain honesty, count your own privileges, shed your biases as much as possible, and not look down upon anyone while reporting. Throughout the development of this story I wanted to abandon it. I felt out of depth and unsure if I had the emotional range to see the layered lives they lived. They are not just sex workers. That is just their occupation, like every other member of society who is offering their labour for bread and butter. They are humans of flesh and blood. They have families. Many of them go to school, hold protest marches, run sexual health awareness drives, win awards, pray to god, and buy their favourite make up at the local stores, much like any of us.

The myth I had about Sonagachi no longer exists. Now it is the place of the women who have offered me tea, welcomed me into their homes, and shared tears and laughter with me.

In the end, the anxiety gave way to the story. With much apprehension, I got two copies of the printed piece and went to the sex workers' Durga Puja event. They saw the paper, they read, they smiled. I shared a sigh of relief. It felt like a reminder of why journalism demands patience, humility, and the willingness to sit with discomfort long before it delivers clarity.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Standing remnants

Reduced to debris: A structure which was brought down by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi near the Faiz-e-Elahi mosque, Turkman Gate, in the Ramlila Maidan area, on Thursday. The Corporation carried out a drive to demolish alleged encroachments near the mosque on Tuesday night. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1976

Chinese PM En-lai dead

Tokyo, Jan. 9: Chou En-lai, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China since its creation in 1949 and its leading force for moderation and detente with the United States, died yesterday (Thursday) in Peking after a long illness.

The 78-year-old descendent of Mandarin forbears who turned a communist revolutionary in his youth, had been confined to a hospital for much of the time since the spring of 1974 when he was stricken with a heart ailment.

Mr. Chou's death was announced by the official Hsinhua news agency. Mr. Chou did not see President Ford on his visit to China in December. He talked in the hospital with visiting foreign leaders over the last year and a half.

During Mr. Chou's illness, his duties had been taken over by Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, who also has been mentioned as a possible successor to the ageing and ailing Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Throughout his illness, Mr. Chou continued to interest himself in political affairs. He met important foreign visitors in his hospital suite and kept a finger on the pulse of Chinese life.

He presided over a national people's congress session which filled in many government gaps left by the cultural purge and laid down the blueprint for a massive new economic effort aimed at bringing China into the front rank of industrial nations by the end of the century.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1926

National memorial to Queen Alexandra

Leafield (Oxford), Mid., Jan. 7: It is proposed that the national memorial to late Queen Alexandra shall take the form of a further endowment to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, which ministers to sick poor in their own homes. An appeal for subscriptions for this object is made today in a letter signed by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Mayor of London, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Cardinal Vaughans, Archbishop of Westminster, and Doctor Hertz, Chief Rabbi. The letter concludes, "We feel sure that this work for the suffering poor, presided over first by Queen Victoria, then by Queen Alexandra, and now by our present gracious Queen, will appeal to our countrymen and countrywomen as a splendid and appropriate object of memorial of the nation's love for Queen Alexandra."

From Page One

Mamata, ED lock horns over search at I-PAC

The ED also clarified that the search that was in connection with coal smuggling syndicate and entities linked to Hawala money is conducted strictly in accordance with established legal safeguards.

"It is clarified that the search is evidence based and is not targeted at any political establishment. No party office has been searched. The search is not linked to any elections, and is part of regular crackdown on money laundering," the agency claimed.

The ED also approached the Calcutta High Court seeking judicial intervention. In its petition, the agency alleged hindrance caused by the Chief Minister's actions during the searches.

FIRs against ED

Two FIRs were registered against ED officials at the Shakespeare Sarani police station. One was based on a *suo motu* complaint by the police that ED officials had not informed the local police before conducting the raids. The other FIR was based on a complaint by Mr. Jain's wife, alleging that important documents had been stolen during the search at his residence.

The Trinamool Congress has engaged I-PAC as a political consultant over the past few years and the firm had helped the party shape its electoral and political strategy in the 2021 Assembly election and subsequent elections in West Bengal.

Ms. Banerjee said that the people of the State would respond to the ED raids and asked her party's rank and file to protest against them. In response, a huge crowd of Trinamool supporters gathered outside the I-PAC office, raising slogans as ED officials left the venue after completing their searches.

Trump clears Bill to impose 500% tariffs

Earlier this week, Mr. Trump, who had jointly addressed the press along with Mr. Graham, announced they had a "great legislation coming", as Mr. Graham said the Bill would give the U.S. President discretion to choose the figure of the tariffs over and above 25% penalty tariffs already imposed on India.

As a result, Mr. Gor's first order of business in Delhi would likely be to push for a full stop to Indian oil imports from Russia, not just a reduction. This week, Reliance announced that it has not received any cargo of Russian oil at its Jamnagar refinery through most of December, and does not expect any in January, indicating that it has stopped orders of the oil for now.

Indian PSUs increased their intake sharply in November 2025, but with Reliance stopping all such imports and Nayara Energy, the other big importer under sanctions from Western countries unable to import, it is unlikely that India's Russian oil purchases can recover to previous levels. In 2018, under similar pressure from the previous Trump administration, India had "zeroed out" its oil imports from Iran and Venezuela as well.

Meanwhile in Paris, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslow Sikorski expressed "satisfaction" that India has reduced its oil imports from Russia, during a joint press appearance with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Foreign Ministers of France and Germany.

"Relations between the European Union and strategic partners such as India are very important to us and I express my satisfaction regarding the reduction of import of Russian oil to India because this is financing the war machine of [Russian President Vladimir] Putin," Mr. Sikorski said.

In September, during his Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearings, Mr. Gor said that Mr. Trump had been "crystal clear" on the issue of India's oil purchases. "They (India) must stop buying Russian oil."

India to grow at 7.2% in 2025-26: UN body

On the other hand, the report presented in the UN DESA's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026, added that, while the tariffs may adversely affect some product categories, key exports are expected to remain exempt.

"On the supply side, continued expansion in manufacturing and services sectors will remain a key driver of growth throughout the forecast period," the report said.

The report noted that investment trends among developing economies diverged in 2025. "India recorded strong growth in gross fixed capital formation, led by higher public spending on physical and digital infrastructure, defence, and renewable energy," the report said. "The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) countries continued to undertake large-scale capital investments aligned with long-term economic diversification strategies." However, in contrast, the report noted that China saw a contraction in its fixed asset investment through the first three quarters of 2025, due to the ongoing weakness in the property sector. "The Indian rupee stabilised against the U.S. dollar in the first half of the year, supported by broad dollar weakness," the report said. "However, in the second half, the Indian rupee edged lower following stronger-than-expected growth in the U.S. and ongoing trade negotiations." It added that portfolio outflows and higher U.S. tariffs added to depreciation pressures on the Indian rupee.

SC weighs Rajya Sabha Chair role in Justice Varma case

Top court reserves ruling; it asks if notice of motion for removal can be placed before current RS Chair; S-G asks if judge can demonstrate any bias against him in committee formed by LS Speaker

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court orally asked on Thursday whether the notice of motion for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma could be placed before the new Rajya Sabha Chairman, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan. This came even as it reserved for judgment the sitting Allahabad High Court judge's challenge to the "unilateral" establishment of an inquiry committee by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to examine allegations of burnt currency found on his residential premises last March.

"Can this be explored? If the Rajya Sabha Chairman agrees with the Speaker, it is the end of the matter," Justice Dipankar Datta, heading the Bench, addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta at one point during the hearing.

The court remarked that no procedural irregularity or illegality had been found as far as the quorum of the committee was concerned.

"The ultimate test of removal or not would be before the Houses. All the MPs would participate and take a decision"
TUSHAR MEHTA
Solicitor-General

"According to me, both Houses had to apply their minds to the notices of motion. Not doing that has caused prejudice to me"
MUKUL ROHATGI, Senior advocate

"There is a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court, and a jurist," Justice Datta said.

Mr. Mehta, representing the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Secretaries-General of both Houses of Parliament, said he would say 'yes' if the suggestion to approach the RS Chair fell from the Bench. However, he also asked whether Justice Varma had been able to show any "real and demonstrable prejudice" done to him by the constitution of the committee by the Speaker.

"If I ask the Chairman to take a relook, and he agrees on the same committee, would that take the matter any further? For what was this petition filed invoking Article 32 of the Constitution?" Mr. Mehta countered.

"The ultimate test of removal or not would be before the Houses. All the MPs would participate and take a decision," the Solicitor-General submitted.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for Justice Varma, said that separate notices of the removal motion had been given on the same day, July 21, 2025, to the then RS Chairman, Jagdeep Dhankhar, and to the LS Speaker. Mr. Dhankhar had resigned the same day. The notice was rejected by the Deputy Chairman on August 11. The next day, Mr. Birla had admitted the notice submitted to him and constituted the inquiry committee.

Mr. Rohatgi said both notices of motion were given in "co-equal" Houses. One authority had rejected the notice, while the other admitted it. The first proviso of Section 3(2) of the Act mandated that both Houses had to admit notices of motion given on the same day and a committee was to be formed jointly by the Chairman and the Speaker in such cases. He said the motion had to start afresh as the proviso was silent on the course of action if the notices given on the same day were rejected by one House and admitted by the second House.

"Both Houses had to apply their minds to the notices of motion. Not doing that has caused prejudice to me," Mr. Rohatgi argued on behalf of Justice Varma.

MHA for talks with Ladakhi leaders in last week of Jan.

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Two bodies from the region were asked to give draft framework for constitutional safeguards

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to call the next round of talks with the civil society leaders of Ladakh in the last week of January, according to a communication sent by the Ministry to the Chief Secretary of Ladakh on Thursday.

The talks were last held on October 22, 2025.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), the two key constituents representing Leh and Kargil districts respectively which are part of the high-powered committee (HPC), were asked by the MHA officials to submit a draft framework for constitutional safeguards as being demanded by them.

The HPC is headed by Minister of State Nityanand Rai.

Despite the two bodies submitting the draft proposal in November, the dates for the next round of meeting were not announced.

On Thursday, Tashi Gyalson, BJP member and former chairman of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), shared on X a letter sent by the MHA to the Chief Secretary, Ladakh indicating that the HPC meeting will be held in "last part of January."

The January 8 letter said, "It is requested to consult the members of the HPC for their convenient set of dates and inform the Ministry."

The October 22 talks were resumed a month after four persons were killed in police action against protesters seeking Ladakhi Statehood.

The LAB and KDA also demand inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, which recognises tribal status and provides a measure of autonomy and self-governance.

They also continue to demand the release of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and other protesters detained since September 24 violence in Leh city.

Govt. seeks feedback on draft Bill to regulate pesticides, promote 'safe and effective' use

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry has invited public comments on the draft Pesticides Management Bill that aims to repeal the Insecticides Act of 1968.

According to the draft, the new Bill will regulate manufacture, import, packaging, labelling, storage, advertisement, sale, transport, distribution, use and disposal of pesticides to "ensure availability of safe and effective pesticides".

The Bill strives to minimise risk to human beings, animals, living organisms other than pests, and the environment, and promote pesticides that are "biological and based on traditional knowledge".

The Bill strives to minimise risk to human beings, animals, living organisms other than pests, and the environment. FILE PHOTO

It defines "pesticide" as a substance or mixture of substances, including a formulation, of chemical or biological origin intended to prevent, destroy, attract, repel, mitigate or control any pest in agriculture, industry, pest control operations, public health, storage or for ordinary use. The definition includes any substance intended for use as a plant growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant, fruit thinning agent, or sprouting inhibitor and also any substance applied to crops either before or after harvest to protect them from deterioration during storage and transport.

The draft provides for constituting the Central Pesticides Board to advise the Central government and State governments on scientific and technical matters on administering the proposed Act. It will advise the Union government in making criteria for good manufacturing practices, including processes for pesticide manufacturers, best practices for pest control operators, procedure for the recall of pesticides, the criteria for the disposal of pesticides and packages in an environmentally sound manner and standards for the advertisement of pesticides.

As per the draft Bill, the Union government can appoint a registration committee to make decisions on registration of pesticides, specify conditions subject to which a certificate of registration is granted, periodically review the safety and efficacy of registered pesticides and amend or cancel certificates of registration. The committee shall also maintain a national register of pesticides in digital form.

The draft Bill also provides for a punishment of imprisonment up to five years, or fine from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh or with both for the manufacture, import, sale, exhibit for sale, transport, distribute, use or cause to use of pesticide in "death or grievous hurt of another."

Authorities 'hid' my calls for peace: Wangchuk

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Sonam Wangchuk, a climate activist turned Ladakhi Statehood campaigner, impressed upon the Supreme Court that malice on the part of authorities was at the bottom of his detention, evident from the fact that local authorities chose to "hide" his public messages calling for peace after protests for Statehood led to violence.

Opening the case for his release before a Bench on Thursday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Wangchuk and his wife Gitanjali Angmo, submitted that "his messages for peace were misconceived as calls for violence".

Lawyers' body begins fast against shift of Gauhati HC

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Most members of the Gauhati High Court Bar Association (GHCBA) began a three-day hunger strike on Thursday to protest the Assam government's decision to shift the Gauhati High Court complex from the Uzanbazar area of Guwahati to North Guwahati across the Brahmaputra River.

The fast followed a resolution adopted at the GHCBA's general meeting held on Tuesday to abstain from participating in the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the proposed judicial township, at Rangmahal in North Guwahati on January 11.

GHCBA president Kamal Nayan Choudhury and secretary general Girin Pegu are leading the hunger strike, a "peaceful and democratic expression" of the association's opposition to the relocation, for six hours a day on January 8, 9, and 11.

Allow institutions to start their own animal cells: DU law centre faculty urge SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Animal lovers stage a protest in support of stray dogs at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on January 4. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The Campus Law Centre at Delhi University, one of the oldest legal education centres in the country, urged the Supreme Court on Thursday not to bank on bureaucracy or municipal authorities to humanely resolve the problem of stray dogs. The faculty said the trick to resolve the problem is simple – do it yourself.

The centre said the inaction of the authorities galvanised students and faculty members to start an "animal cell". The cell members identified 49 stray dogs on their premises. The members have already vaccinated and sterilised 28 of the canines. Counsel for the centre said the stray population has not increased.

Counsel drew the attention of a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath to how stray cattle continue to roam the roads of the national capital and suburbs despite repeated orders of the courts to municipal authorities to remove them. "A day before the court hearing, the municipal authority would come to court and say that they had removed eight cattle. If the court still appeared dissatisfied, the authority would reveal that *gaushalas* (cow sheds) were filled beyond capacity, and there was absolutely no room for more," counsel submitted.

The centre said there were only five government-owned dog shelters across the country. The private shelters were filled to the brim. Infrastructure required a lot to be done, it submitted.

Justice Nath asked if the municipal authorities had offered to help the centre deal with the stray dogs humanely. Counsel replied in the negative.

He said the court ought to pass an order directing institutions to have their 'animal cells'.

FIR against coach for assaulting teenage shooter inside hotel

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

A national shooting coach has been accused of sexually assaulting a teenage shooter inside a five-star hotel in Haryana's Faridabad. The accused, Ankush Bhardwaj, has been suspended following the registration of the case.

The incident took place on December 16, but the FIR was registered on January 6 after the 17-year-old victim confided in her mother about the alleged assault. The case has been registered on charges of aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and criminal intimidation under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

National Rifle Association of India secretary Rajiv Bhatia said the coach was suspended following the registration of the case. Ankush's contract was running till March this year, he said. Repeated calls and messages to Ankush to seek his response went unanswered.

APPEAL

Ms. Aditi Tukaram Dalwe, Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center MRN No.10020001672194, 16 years D/o Mr.Tukaram Marotrao Dalawe is suffering from Thalassemia Major. The only Curative Treatment is Bone Marrow Transplant. We are Planning TCR ALPHA/BETA and CD 45RA Depletion Therapy for this Patient. The Estimated cost of the Treatment is Approximately Rs.42,30,000/-

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Aditi Tukaram Dalwe, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Mamata to hit the streets against searches by ED

Bengal CM to lead rally in Kolkata today to protest against the ED action; searches show BJP's desperation, this is Shah's politics: fear, force, and files, Trinamool says; party MPs back Mamata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Voicing disagreement: Trinamool Congress members staging a demonstration against the Enforcement Directorate's search at the office of political consultancy firm I-PAC on Thursday. PTI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will take to the streets in Kolkata on Friday to protest against the searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the I-PAC office and residence of its co-founder Pratik Jain. Ms. Banerjee will lead the procession from Jadavapur 8 B Bus Stand to Hazra More.

"Tomorrow, our Hon'ble Chairperson Mamata will lead a rally against the BJP's blatant misuse of central agencies and its assault on democracy," the Trinamool Congress posted from its official social media handle.

On Thursday, Ms. Banerjee visited the residence of Mr. Jain and the office of the political consultancy firm in Kolkata during the ED searches, and said the action was "politically motivated to steal party data", including candidate list for the coming election.

Speaking at an event later in the day, the Chief Minister criticised the action of the Central agency, and said such activities "take place before the elections". "They have stolen everything, all data, SIR list," she said referring to the ED searches.

Political observers feel that the searches on the political consultancy firm have given a fresh handle to the Chief Minister to target the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Trinamool Congress said the searches on I-PAC reflected the desperation of the BJP. "When BJP4India knows it will lose Bengal, it unleashes ED. This is Amit Shah's politics: fear, force, and files. His desperation is exposed. If you have guts, come to the people. FIGHT US POLITICALLY! Not through central agencies acting as your puppets," the party posted from its official handle.

Support for CM

Trinamool Congress leaders Mahua Moitra and Saket Gokhale joined the party chairperson in taking on the Central investigation agency.

"ED suddenly wakes up in a 10-year-old case on the eve of elections? Inconceivable after so long that info on any scam will be on IPAC devices – likely only current Trinamool political data will be. Faced with this political burglary, Mamatadi as head of party fully justified to take possession of devices & files which would otherwise be irretrievably lost if ED allowed to get its hands on contained data," Ms. Moitra, MP for Krishnanagar, posted on social media.

Mr. Gokhale, on the other hand, shared data of cases handled by the ED. "In the last 11 years, a total of 5,297 cases were filed by ED. How many were taken to court for trial? ONLY 47," the Trinamool Rajya Sabha member said. He said about 98% of ED cases against politicians were filed on Opposition leaders and the remaining 2% were those who went and joined the BJP's "washing machine".

Bengal Opposition parties call CM's actions during ED search 'unconstitutional'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA/SRINAGAR

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's visits to the residence of I-PAC director Pratik Jain and the office of the political consultancy firm during ED searches on Thursday drew strong criticism from Opposition parties in the State.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Suvendu Adhikari termed the visits "unconstitutional". "The visit by the Chief Minister and Kolkata Police Commissioner was unethical, unconstitutional and a direct interference in the Central agency's investigation. I-PAC is a corporate organisation, not a political party. If there are allegations against the firm, it can show papers, tax files, and face the officials," said the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

He said the ED must act against Ms. Banerjee's visits as such actions may send a wrong message to the people of West Bengal. He further said Ms. Banerjee had a "habit" of interfering in Central agency searches.

In 2019, the Chief Minister attempted to stop a Central Bureau of Investigation search at then Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar's house.

Suvendu Adhikari

"This is an attempt to shield criminals and hide evidence... She left the premises with files and attacked the [Union] Home Minister [Amit Shah]. How is the Home Minister related to this," BJP State president Samik Bhattacharya asked. He alleged that Thursday's incidents proved that the Trinamool Congress was involved in the corruption that the ED was investigating.

Earlier, after visiting I-PAC's office, Ms. Banerjee said, "If Amit Shah wants to win the election, he should fight it at polling booths. Why raid our party's IT wing and snatch away all our documents?"

'Interference in probe'

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary Mohammad Salim said the Trinamool and the BJP used government agencies for political purposes. "Is the Chief Minister's behaviour legal," Mr. Salim asked. "If Ms. Banerjee interfered in a Central agency search and took away documents, then the houses and offices of Ms. Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee should be searched. Cases must be registered against her and police officers who interfered in the raids."

Congress State president Subhankar Sarkar alleged that Ms. Banerjee walking out of the ED raid with files showed the entire episode was a political show and done with mutual understanding of the two entities.

Mehbooba slams BJP

However, Ms. Banerjee also found support from outside West Bengal. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said ED raids in West Bengal were an "outrageous abuse" of Central agencies ahead of election and reeked of the "BJP's desperation". "When EVM manipulation and voter roll tampering under SIR aren't enough, raids become their weapon," Ms. Mufti posted on X.

Power is being misused in Maharashtra, say Thackeray cousins

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Thursday levelled serious allegations against the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra. They said that people were being neglected and that power was being misused.

In an interview against the backdrop of the coming local body elections, the Thackeray cousins highlighted their agenda concerning how the *Marathi Manoos* have been exploited and betrayed, and how migration had taken away the rights of locals.

Referring to the Shiv Sena split in 2022 and the alleged money given to the MLAs who walked out with Eknath Shinde, Mr. Raj asked, "40 MLAs mean ₹2,000 crores, where did this money come from?" Mr. Raj said the connection between the increased money in politics and drugs on the streets needs to be analysed. They spoke about pollution, deforestation, drug abuse, crime against women, and governance. They said that the State and Union governments were responsible for drugs reaching schools.

Cong. seeks clarification on deaths in Indore, terms it 'collective failure' of govts.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded that the Centre and the Madhya Pradesh government clarify whether the recent deaths in Indore, allegedly caused by the consumption of contaminated drinking water, were due to cholera.

The party termed the incident a result of criminal negligence and a collective failure of the "triple-engine" governments, at the Centre, in the State and at the Indore Municipal Corporation.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson and chairman of the Media and Publicity Department Pawan Khera said the tragedy had exposed the "ugly, brutal and utterly callous face of the BJP government".

Pawan Khera

He alleged 18 people, including a six-month-old infant, had lost their lives, while more than 40,000 residents were affected, with several still battling for survival in intensive care units.

Officially, though, the State government had put the number of deaths at four.

Mr. Khera pointed out the irony that the incident occurred in Indore, which has been ranked the country's cleanest city for eight consecutive years under the Centre's Swachh Survekshan survey.

The party spokesperson said the deaths laid bare decades of systemic failure, despite flagship schemes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that promised clean drinking water and improved sanitation.

Mr. Khera demanded an immediate probe by the Prime Minister's Office, escalation of the issue to the Asian Development Bank, and an independent Supreme Court-monitored inquiry to fix accountability.

During three-day Gujarat trip, PM to visit Somnath temple and offer prayers

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The four-day "Somnath Swabhiman Parv" began on Thursday at the Somnath temple near Veraval in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to begin a three-day visit to Gujarat from Saturday, will offer prayers at the temple on Sunday and lead a "Shaurya Yatra", officials said.

It will be a one-km roadshow featuring 108 horses.

The celebrations also mark 1,000 years since the first attack on the shrine by the Mahmud of Ghazni. Mr. Modi, in a post on social media platform X on Thursday, recalled his earlier visits to Somnath and highlighted the resilience of faith despite repeated attacks on the shrine.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on the occasion of 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' in Gandhinagar on Thursday. X/@BJP4GUJARAT

He said the assault in 1026 and subsequent invasions failed to weaken India's spiritual resolve and instead strengthened cultural unity, leading to the temple's repeated reconstruction.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Gujarat Ministers Jitu Vaghani and Pradyuman Vaja were present at the inauguration of the "Somnath Swabhiman Parv".

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the event has provided people an opportunity to celebrate India's heritage and cultural identity.

Cong. flags growing 'turbulence' in India's relations with U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday flagged what it described as growing turbulence in India's relations with the United States, despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi being among the first leaders to visit the White House after the start of President Donald Trump's second term.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said Indo-U.S. ties were passing through "very turbulent times", pointing to recent legislative and political signals from Washington that have caused some discomfort in New Delhi.

Mr. Ramesh drew attention to a Bill being pushed by Senator Lindsey Graham, a close ally of Mr. Trump, which seeks to impose wide-ranging sanctions on India over its trade and other engagements with Russia.

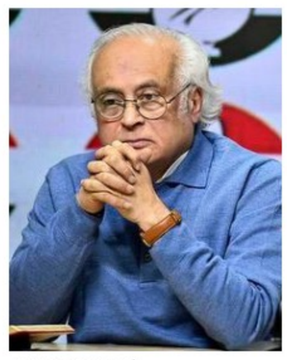
He said the proposed legislation directly targeted India's foreign policy choices and strategic autonomy.

He also referred to an earlier Bill introduced by Senator Bernie Moreno that proposed a 25% tax on American companies making what are termed "outsourcing payments".

According to Mr. Ramesh, such a measure could have serious implications for India's services sector, particularly information technology firms that have a significant presence in the U.S. market.

Adding to what he described as India's "extreme discomfiture", Mr. Ramesh noted that Mr. Trump had continued to publicly praise Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir.

He suggested that these remarks carried political and strategic overtones that New Delhi could not ignore, given the regional context.



Jairam Ramesh

"These developments point to a 'new abnormal' in the bilateral relationship," Mr. Ramesh said, arguing that India now faces fresh challenges on a near-daily basis in managing ties with Washington.

He added that conciliatory or "appeasing" public messaging by the Prime Minister was unlikely to be sufficient to address the underlying shifts in U.S. policy and political attitudes towards India.

Broader debate

The comments come amid broader debate within Opposition circles over the trajectory of India-U.S. relations under the Trump administration, with concerns being raised about economic protectionism, geopolitical signalling in South Asia, and pressure on India's strategic partnerships.

Mr. Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on India, among the highest in the world, including 25% levies for its purchases of Russian energy.

Earlier this week, Mr. Graham had said that Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Vinay Kwatra had informed him about New Delhi reducing its purchases of Russian oil and asked him to convey to Mr. Trump to relieve the tariff imposed on India.

Mr. Graham, accompanying Mr. Trump on Air Force One on January 4, was talking about his tariff Bill.

(With inputs from PTI)

Shah urges agencies to remain alert at J&K security review meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed all security agencies to remain alert and continue to work in synergy to ensure that the gains achieved after the dilution of Article 370 are sustained and the goal of "terror-free Jammu and Kashmir" is achieved at the earliest.

Mr. Shah chaired a meeting to review the security situation in J&K on Thursday. The meeting was attended by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant-Governor of J&K; Govind Mohan, Union Home Secretary; Tapan Kumar Deka, Director, Intelligence Bureau; Atal Dullu, Chief Secretary, J&K; Nalin Prabhat, Director-General of Police, J&K; heads of Central Armed Police Forces; and other senior officers.

He said that the Centre was committed to establishing lasting peace in J&K and completely eliminate terrorism. Reiterating the zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, Mr. Shah said that due to sustained and coordinated efforts of the Narendra Modi government, the terror ecosystem in J&K was crippled.

He appreciated the efforts of the security agencies in strengthening the security scenario of J&K. He stated that Counter Terror operations targeting terrorist infrastructure and terror financing in a mission mode should be continued, a statement said.

Parties in U.P. gear up to enrol eligible voters amid deletions on draft rolls

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Political parties in Uttar Pradesh are gearing up to enrol voters after 2.89 crore names were deleted from the draft rolls after the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday directed party leaders to conduct a thorough investigation at the booth level, adding "we must all unite again to save every single vote". The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also held meetings to identify eligible voters who were not on the list.

The Election Commission had earlier announced that claims and objections on additions and deletions would be received from January 6 to February 6, with the publication of the final voter list scheduled for March 6.

People check for their names on the draft electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh. ANI

"There must be a thorough investigation at every booth, and, with our slogan 'Not a single vote should be cut', we must all unite again to save every single vote. Remind every voter of the importance of having their names on the voter list," Mr. Yadav wrote on X, calling upon SP workers to act as sentinels for the "PDA" (Pichda, Dalit, Alpashankhak), a term he uses to refer to the oppressed sections, Dalits and minorities.

Nasser Salim, the SP spokesperson, said, "Citizens whose names may have been omitted from the draft rolls are being encouraged to verify their details through the official mechanism provided by the Election Commission and make use of the claims and objections process within the stipulated timeline. The SP is bringing about awareness through legal literacy initiatives, and engagement with election authorities strictly within the framework of electoral law to ensure that no eligible voter is inadvertently excluded."

BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, "Ever since the SIR exercise was announced, our State unit and workers encouraged people to submit their forms as per EC guidelines. We will continue to hold awareness drives to ensure no one is left out."

Ajay Rai, Uttar Pradesh Congress president, told *The Hindu* that committees have been formed to run awareness drives across the State. "District-level monitoring committees of the Congress are working across 75 districts of U.P. To encourage voter addition and keep a check on any malpractices, our teams are holding meetings at the village level to make sure that all those who are eligible make it to the final draft," said Mr. Rai.

INBRIEF

NHRC issues notice to Gujarat govt. over typhoid case spike

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday issued notice to the Gujarat government over a surge in patients with typhoid in hospitals in Gandhinagar allegedly due to consumption of contaminated drinking water. According to a communique by the commission, news reports stated that the State Health Department has confirmed a total 70 active cases of typhoid concentrated in a particular area of the city. The surge has exposed flaws in the city's newly laid water-supply system. Seven points of leaks have been identified in the water pipeline network causing sewage to mix with the drinking water supplied.

6 more held in connection with Turkman Gate violence

A day after a court-ordered anti-encroachment drive triggered clashes and stone-pelting in central Delhi's Turkman Gate area, six more arrests have been made in connection with the violence, which left police personnel injured. The total number of arrests made in the matter now stands at 11. Those arrested on Thursday have been identified as Afaan, Adil, Shahnawaz, Hamza, Atharr and Ubed, all are residents of the Turkman Gate area. "We have arrested six more people. So far total of 11 people, including one juvenile, have been apprehended," Additional Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan stated. PTI

Voice for people-driven conservation

Madhav Gadgil, who passed away in Pune on Wednesday, shifted the paradigm in global conservation discourse, giving primacy to human rights over exclusive wildlife protection; Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel he headed recommended strict but people-driven protection for the ghats

Divya Gandhi
BENGALURU

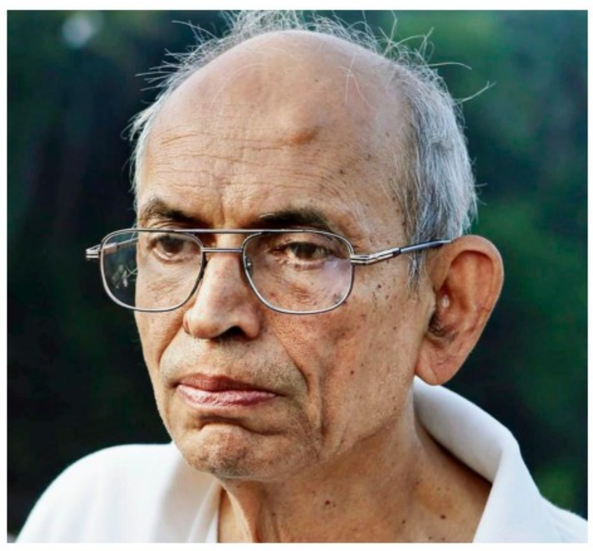
Madhav Gadgil, a pioneering scholar and iconic people's conservationist, passed away in Pune on Wednesday after a brief illness. He was 83.

As someone who started off with the upper-class "urban conservationist approach to nature conservation", Mr. Gadgil metamorphosed into an ecologist who advocated the rights of the marginalised communities for whom the forest was home. He called them the "common people of India", and saw them as "constituents of the ecosystem".

Nothing sums this up better than his own admission in his autobiography, *A Walk Up the Hill: Living with People and Nature*, published in 2023. Writing about his early days as a young conservationist, Mr. Gadgil confessed: "I subscribed to the urban conservationist approach to nature conservation, namely, protection through the devices of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks... I also subscribed to the view that it was necessary to remove habitations from within such habitats to safeguard them."

All that changed in the 1980s, when Mr. Gadgil "started thinking about alternative ways of following my passion to conserve nature, working with rather than against the common people of India".

Writing in the foreword to the book, the late M.S. Swaminathan, veteran agriculture scientist, said of Mr. Gadgil: "Madhav has had an illustrious career as one of India's leading researchers in the fields of ecology and environment, but more importantly, his thinking has been combined with action on environmental and ecological security in the service of humanity."



MADHAV GADGIL (1942 - 2026)

Gadgil was an ecologist who advocated for rights of the marginalised communities

Paradigm shift

Mr. Gadgil would go on to shift the paradigm in the global conservation discourse, giving primacy to human rights over exclusive wildlife protection. He was distraught by the obsession of governments with commercial interests and their disregard for the rights of farmers and indigenous people. In fact, he began to view the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 as weapon at the hands of the Forest departments "to subjugate the common people of India", especially by criminalising hunter-gatherer communities and farmers.

The Western Ghats, where he was born in 1942, received his particular attention. This interest acquired the sharpest clarity in his 2011 report as chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel. The Manmohan Singh government, having responded to an alarm sounded by experts and local populations on the destruction of the fragile ecosystem and people of the Western Ghats by industrialisation, climate change and commercial greed, had tasked Mr. Gadgil with rendering advice on how to save the ghats from an ecological disaster.

Mr. Gadgil scoured the region he knew so intimately, interacted with communities, both forest- and village-based, panchayats and forest officials, and recommended strict but people-driven protection for the ghats. Advocating the setting up of a Western Ghats Ecology Authority, he asked for the major part of it to be declared environmentally sensitive. No new polluting industries were to be set up in the zones earmarked as particularly endangered and existing industries were to be phased out.

Vested interest groups resisted the ideas, leading, typically and predictably, to the setting up of another panel. Headed by the eminent space scientist K. Kasturirangan, the panel recommended in 2013 that a reduced area (37% of the ghats) be protected. But even that was not accepted.

Till today, the Western Ghats remains a zone of contestation between the dogma of development and the calls for conservation.

Mr. Gadgil also championed the "Save the Silent Valley" movement in Kerala in the 1970s and early 1980s to protect the rainforests, as he campaigned for the forests of Bastar. A "product" of Harvard and a citizen of the world, he focused on the fragilities of India's ecosystems and the human inhabitants.

Paying tributes on X, former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Gadgil "was a top-notch academic scientist, a tireless field researcher, a pioneering institution-builder, a great communicator, a believer in people's networks and movements, and friend, philosopher, guide, and mentor to many..."

Historian Ramachandra Guha, who co-authored two books with Mr. Gadgil in the 1990s, described him as "an exemplary scientist and citizen, and, to me, a friend and mentor for forty years and more".

Mr. Gadgil leaves behind a rich legacy for the future generations. He had hoped that this "will be the third generation of people born in free, democratic India whose Constitution professes values of social justice, equity, equality, non-racism and non-sexism, human dignity, an open society, accountability and the rule of law." To achieve that, the ecologist must, as he said, "talk of many things, not just air and water and the bird that sings, but of men and money and economic reforms..."

(With inputs from Vinaya Deshpande Pandit)

Madhav Gadgil's enduring legacy in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve

Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The passing of ecologist Madhav Gadgil on Wednesday has left a void in the Nilgiris, where he had done phenomenal work.

"Almost everyone working on ecology in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and across the Western Ghats, directly or indirectly, is connected to, or is influenced by the work of Madhav Gadgil," said a scientist who spoke to *The Hindu* about the ecologist's lasting legacy.

Ecologists and academics who either worked directly with Gadgil or were familiar with his work say his research and that of his students in the Western Ghats, particularly in what is today known as the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve (NBR), laid the foundation for the recognition of the region's importance to biodiversity and to its protection.

The passing of Madhav Gadgil has left a void in the Nilgiris, where he had done phenomenal work. FILE PHOTO

"It was during his students' work on elephants in the landscape that Gadgil understood the importance of a landscape-level conservation framework that was required to protect the Asian elephant," said a senior scientist who requested anonymity.

"He established the Centre for Ecological Science in the Indian institute of Sciences, Bangalore. And as Director of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, he authored the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve concept document, the first Biosphere Reserve, under the Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) Program of UNESCO, in India," said the former member of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) B.J. Krishnan.

"As a member of the WGEEP, I had the privilege of working with Professor Gadgil and contributing to the panel's report. Gadgil was a gentle colossus in the field of all-inclusive, people-centric, nature conservation regime. His demise is a huge loss for nature conservation and biodiversity dependant livelihoods, Mr. Krishnan said.

Karthick Balasubramanian, scientist at the Agharkar Research Institute in Pune, said that Mr. Gadgil's legacy extended even further than the formation of the NBR and the recommendations of the WGEEP, as it helped shape the careers of young, aspiring scientists and conservationists. "Through his Western Ghats Network Programme, he managed to connect faculties and students from across the Western Ghats, from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu," Mr. Balasubramanian said.

Ecologist's advocacy shaped political and ecological narratives in Kerala

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Kerala will remember Madhav Gadgil, ecologist who passed away on Wednesday, as a one-man green army who shaped the socio-political and ecological narratives of the State for the past decade and a half in an unprecedented manner.

The report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), led by Mr. Gadgil, which convulsed the political and conservation landscape of Kerala, classified the mountain range into different Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) based on their ecological significance. It categorised the 142 taluks in the Ghats boundary into ESZs 1, 2 and 3 while prescribing that no new polluting industries, including coal-based power plants, should be allowed in the first two zones. The panel report almost divided the State's political leaders into two camps: those who supported it and those who opposed it.

Madhav Gadgil, who led the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, visiting the Chembanmudy Hills in Kerala in 2013. FILE PHOTO

While the pro-conservationists revered Mr. Gadgil as the saviour of the Western Ghats and the vanguard of the ecosystem, he was fiercely hated by those who advocated that development needs must be prioritised over ecology. The Assembly election that followed the submission of the WGEEP report in 2011 also witnessed the political battle being fought in the hilly districts of Kerala on the question of conservation and development. However, Gadgil was often worried that his report was "misinterpreted by interest groups", which propagated that people should be evacuated from hilly districts such as Idukki. The report sealed the fate of the 163-MW Athirappally hydel project in the Chalakkudy river, pushed by the then State government.

"The views of Mr. Gadgil have left an influence on the green movements and ecological campaigns of the State. His stand on issues concerning development and environment was widely discussed in the State," Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in his condolence message.

Communist Party of India leader Binoy Viswom said Mr. Gadgil taught that it was not the intervention to improve the living standards of ordinary people, but the violent intervention of profit-oriented capitalist development that polluted soil, water and nature everywhere and makes human life impossible.

TH CROSSWORD + 14687

(set by Vidwan)

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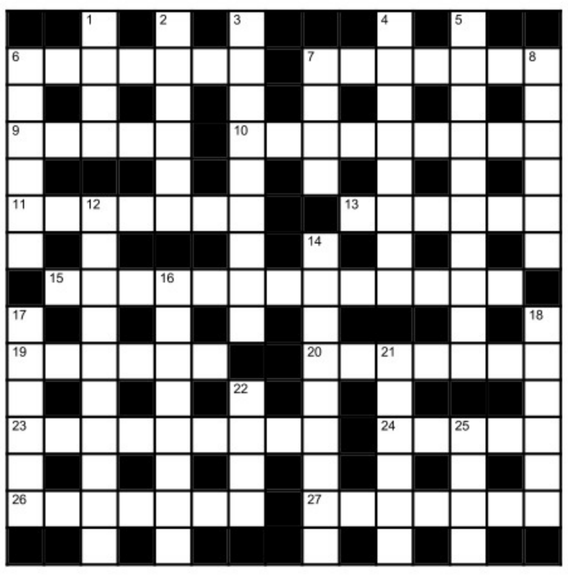
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Symphonic component highlighting energetic, rhythmic, zippy oscillation basically (7)
7 Salted element possibly miscalculated (7)
9 A day that is universal for farewell (5)
10 Israel soldier in pub is senseless (9)
11 Shiv accepts holding back confession of guilt (7)
13 Comic's writhing is universal (6)
15 Hold flower for metempsychosis (13)
19 Noble in short Paris top (6)
20 Go on about one suffering without a headdress fastener (7)
23 Irresolute headless fool! Coach runs to the front! (9)
24 Chilli - large, cut and turned into a sweet fruit! (5)
26 Wandering out north, ignoring the impairment of motor functions (7)
27 Priest is back on cam'ra, for instance (7)

Down

1 One exiled from Haiti, working from Bangkok or Pattaya (4)
2 Mostly capture bare human pain (6)
3 Most courteous one, mostly composed about governing (9)
4 Piece of online writing by learner trapped in toilet job! (8)
5 No, no! Pop CM! I can be an idiot! (10)
6 Small party on island, large prawns fried and served with breadcrumbs (6)
7 Pass a drink (4)
8 State and Church of England's enmity (6)
12 Visa provides one with due attention, mostly on first day (6,4)
14 I managed, crossing line with single arm (3-6)
16 Authenticate unconventional kind of vote increase (8)
17 Rip off Gaza without a bump after leader's eliminated (6)
18 Some teens ignore colours (6)
21 Kind of decorated, stylish boy overwhelming India (6)
22 Occasionally praises for complimentary entry (4)
25 Hairdo considered offbeat in France initially (4)

SUDOKU

1	5				2		9	4
	2			3				6
	3	7						
3			5	9				
8			2		1			7
				8	7			9
						8	6	
9				5			1	
2	6		7				4	3

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

I	S	M			A	O	A	
K	N	O	T	T	Y	B	A	D
I	N	A	G	E	T	R	R	U
V	E	A	H	E	D	O	N	I
S	T	O	R	D	A	I	N	G
B	A	T	C	G	N	R	E	K
I	N	D	L	E	A	G	E	I
S	M	R	L	R	T	T	K	I
S	O	F	D	E	A	T	H	K
W	I	H	D	N	I	B	B	L
E	N	E	W	L	Y	W	E	D
L	E	E	G	I	R	S	S	L
I	G	H	T	E	N	C	R	O
A	C	H	J	I	P	R	K	I
E	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	S
E	N	D	I	N	G	Y	S	A
D	S	T						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	9
7	2	5	4	8	9	1	6	3
1	4	9	7	6	3	8	2	5
9	7	2	5	4	8	6	3	1
6	8	4	3	9	1	2	5	7
5	3	1	6	2	7	9	8	4
4	5	8	9	1	6	3	7	2
2	1	7	8	3	4	5	9	6
3	9	6	2	7	5	4	1	8

FAITH

Murugan idol with six faces

Virali Malai is on the Madurai-Tiruchi road. The Murugan temple here is located on a small hillock. Here Murugan is seated on a peacock, and has six faces and twelve hands, said Desa Mangayarkkarasi in a discourse. Murugan's six faces are Isana, Tatpurusha, Aghora, Vamadeva, Satyojata and Athomukha. The story about Murugan is that He appeared as six babies, who were all fused together into one form by Ambal. Murugan therefore came to have a rupa with six faces and twelve hands. This is described by Kachiappa Sivachariyar in his Kanda Puranam.

The story about the temple is that a hunter once chased a tiger, which disappeared near a tree. Those who followed the hunter concluded that the place was divine and began to worship there. A temple for Shanmukha came up later in this place. Arunagirinatha had been summoned from Thiruvannamalai to Vayalur by Murugan. When he was in Vayalur, Murugan appeared in his dream and asked him to come to Virali Malai. Arunagirinatha immediately left for Virali Malai. But it was midnight and he lost his way. A hunter who happened to pass by offered to show him the way. With the hunter's help, Arunagirinatha reached his destination. He wanted to thank the hunter who had guided him. But when he tried to thank him, he found that the hunter had vanished. Arunagirinatha then realised that the hunter was none other than Murugan. In Virali Malai, Arunagirinatha was blessed by Murugan with the ashtamasiddhis – eight super powers. In his verses, Arunagirinatha describes the beauty of the place, the abundance of *kondrai* flowers in the area and the peacocks on the hill, besides giving us philosophical truths.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,181	-0.92
US Dollar	89.90	-0.03
Gold	1,40,500	-0.63
Brent oil	61.04	1.31

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2214.00	-60.10
Adani Ports	1465.20	-0.10
Apollo Hosp	7364.50	-83.00
Asian Paints	2786.50	-22.90
Axis Bank	1286.80	-8.70
Bajaj Auto	9760.50	-29.00
Bajaj Finserv	2008.90	-23.00
Bajaj Finance	971.95	3.15
Bharat Elec	415.65	0.00
Bharti Airtel	2066.30	-17.90
Cipla	1460.60	-7.30
Coal India	425.25	-6.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1206.90	-35.90
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7551.00	-31.50
Eternal Ltd.	283.55	2.60
Grasim Ind	2792.00	-45.10
HCL Tech	1646.70	-1.00
HDFC Bank	946.70	-2.35
HDFC Life	758.15	-14.20
Hindalco	903.95	-34.50
Hind Unilever	2386.70	-12.70
ICICI Bank	1435.00	7.30
IntGlobeAvi	4906.50	-44.50
Infosys	1613.30	-25.70
ITC	340.90	-0.35
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	293.55	-9.95
JSW Steel	1155.90	-33.90
Kotak Bank	2133.00	-11.00
L&T	4028.40	-128.60
M&M	3724.00	-24.80
Maruti Suzuki	16664.00	-145.00
Max Healthcare	1029.80	-4.90
NestleIndia	1306.90	-7.90
NTPC	344.40	-4.45
ONGC	231.42	-7.64
PowerGrid Corp	259.30	-4.80
Reliance Ind	1470.60	-33.60
SBI Life	2082.90	12.10
State Bank	998.00	-9.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	992.90	-2.95
Sun Pharma	1760.70	-21.90
TataConsumerProduct	1197.40	-15.20
Tata Steel	180.12	-3.68
TCS	3203.90	-91.70
Tech Mahindra	1577.90	-47.30
Titan	4249.00	-24.20
Tata Motors PV	359.45	-3.90
Trent Ltd.	3990.40	-70.10
UltraTech Cement	12064.00	-120.00
Wipro	262.20	-8.60

India to scrap curbs on Chinese firms that bid for govt. contracts

Plan follows ministries' requests to ease shortages and project delays; projects awarded to Chinese bidders fell 27% from a year earlier in 2021

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Boomerang effect: Curbs on Chinese imports for the power sector hindered India's plans to raise thermal power capacity. FILE PHOTO

The finance ministry plans to scrap five-year-old restrictions on Chinese firms bidding for government contracts, two government sources said, as New Delhi seeks to revive commercial ties in an environment of reduced border tensions.

The curbs, imposed in 2020 after a deadly clash between the countries' troops, required Chinese bidders to register with an Indian government committee and obtain political and security clearances.

The measures effectively barred Chinese firms from competing for Indian government contracts that were estimated to be worth $700 billion to $750 billion.

Reuters is the first to report on the plan to ease the restrictions.

One of the sources said officials were working to remove the registration requirement. Both sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office will make the final decision.

The finance ministry and the PMO did not respond to *Reuters* requests for comment. The restrictions had a significant impact: months after they were made public, China's State-owned CRRC was disqualified from bidding for a $216 million train-manufacturing contract. The Ministry of Finance's plan to ease the curbs followed requests from other government departments that face shortages and project delays due to the 2020 restrictions, the sources said.

Soon after India imposed its restrictions, the value of new projects awarded to Chinese bidders fell 27% from a year earlier to $1.67 billion in 2021, according to Observer Research Foundation.

Specifically, curbs on imports from China of equipment for the power sector have hindered India's plans to raise its thermal power capacity to about 307 GW over the next decade.

India to continue to work with ISA, back solar adoption

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The U.S. had sought to withdraw from 66 'wasteful, ineffective organisations' which also included the ISA

India will continue to work with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and support solar adoption and energy transition goals, government sources said on Thursday, even as the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the alliance.

In an executive order signed on January 7, the U.S. sought to withdraw from 66 "wasteful, ineffective or harmful international organisations", which also included the solar alliance.

"These withdrawals will end American taxpayer funding and involvement in entities that advance globalist agendas over U.S. priorities, or that address important issues inefficiently or ineffectively such that U.S. taxpayer dollars are best allocated in other ways to support the relevant missions," read a White House fact sheet.

The 125-member alliance was conceptualised on the sidelines of COP21 in Paris in 2015 and was formally instituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of France Francois Hollande.

It aspires to unlock $1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 whilst reducing technology and financing costs relating to solar implementation.

The sources stated that the alliance's programmes are operational in more than 95 countries and had supported creation of national pipelines, regulatory frameworks, and market creation.

They added that the alliance had been "successful" in demonstrating the "feasibility and effectiveness" of solar solutions.

Taking note of the latest development, the sources held, "ISA will continue to work with member countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, in development and deployment of solar energy, mobilising finance, building capacity, and reducing risk perceptions."

INBRIEF

'Ministry gives nod for power equipment testing tech'

The power ministry has accorded in-principle clearance to institute a ₹3,000 crore package to build power equipment testing technology in the country, sources privy to the development informed on Thursday. The sources added that the idea was to reduce the present dependency on The Netherlands for the testing equipment. The sources also said that the initial projects would be coming up in Noida and Haryana.

SEBI revamps stockbroker rules to ease compliance

SEBI has overhauled three-decade-old stockbroker regulations, allowing brokers to carry out activities under the framework of other financial regulators, in a move aimed at providing ease of compliance and ease of doing business. The new rule, replacing SEBI's (Stock Brokers) Regulations 1992 with the SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations 2026 (SB Regulation), simplified regulatory language, removed outdated provisions, and introduced clearer definitions. PTI

Corporate India earnings expected to grow faster in Q3

Corporate India's earnings are expected to grow at a slightly faster rate in the third quarter of fiscal 2026 against the same period last year, according to analysts' research. The earnings for firms that Kotak Institutional Research covers is expected to grow at a pace of 8.8% in the Q3 of fiscal 2026, while Motilal Oswal is more optimistic at 16%, which is the fastest in eight quarters. Excluding OMCs, its companies are expected to grow at 13% on a year-on-year basis.

Textiles ministry signs MoUs with 15 States under Tex-RAMPS scheme

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Ministry of Textiles has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with 15 States as part of the 'Textiles focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning And Start-Up' (Tex-RAMPS) scheme.

The MoUs were signed on the first day of the two-day national textile ministers' conference in Guwahati on the theme 'India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation'.

The scheme is designed to improve the coverage, quality, timeliness, and credibility of textile-related statistical products and research, according to a press release.

The initiative drives integrated planning for key sectors including handlooms, handicrafts, apparel, and technical textiles by focusing efforts directly at the cluster and district levels, the release said.

The Ministry provides an annual grant of ₹12 lakh to each State or Union Territory. An additional grant of ₹1 lakh a year will be provided for each district, based on the development and execution of specific district action plans.

Gen Z, millennials in India believe finding jobs will be tough in 2026: LinkedIn study

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Young professionals need guidance and career clarity amid AI-powered hiring.

A majority of Gen Z and millennials in India believe that it will be more challenging for them to find jobs in 2026, as their ambition for a career change faces the new pressures of uncertainty and unpreparedness, LinkedIn reported on Thursday

According to data exclusively shared by the professional platform with *The Hindu*, as job search gets challenging, India's younger professionals are seeking clarity and transparency to streamline career growth.

Some 80% of Gen Z and 75% of millennials say it will be more challenging to find a job this year, LinkedIn found.

These observations also made the platform conclude that young Indian professionals need guidance and career clarity amid AI-powered hiring.

Nirajita Banerjee, a LinkedIn career expert and senior managing editor, LinkedIn India News, said, "AI is now a foundational part of how careers are built and how talent is evaluated across India's job market. What professionals need most is a clear understanding of how their skills translate into opportunity and how hiring decisions are actually made."

However, 77% of Gen Z and 71% of millennials also said it was hard to find reliable advice and guidance to help in the job-seeking process, LinkedIn said. "They [job seekers] sought clarity from recruiters on what they could've done better," LinkedIn reported based on its recent research. "When used with purpose, AI tools can bridge that gap by helping people identify the roles they're right for, prepare with intent, and focus their learning where it matters most," Ms. Banerjee added.

LinkedIn also found that nine in 10 millennials and 89% of Gen Z felt confident using AI at work, well ahead of older cohorts (Gen X 79%, Boomers 77%). This readiness, LinkedIn said, was driving ambition – 84% of Gen Z and 74% of millennials plan to look for a new job in 2026, compared with 53% Gen X and 42% Boomers.

As per another data set released by LinkedIn, some 84% of professionals feel unprepared to find a new job, although 72% said they were actively seeking a new role in 2026.

This mindset comes amid the rise of AI in the hiring process, rapidly shifting skill requirements for today's jobs, and an increasingly competitive, but selective job market, it said further.

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Name of Works: 1) Providing Permanent Shelter & Queue lines with Toilets for SSD (Slotted Sarva Darshan) waiting pilgrims at Westside of Alwar tank area at Tirumala. **Amount : 800.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:6 months.** 2)Construction of Yagasala for Sri Srinivasa Divyanugraha Homam at Alipiri. **Amount:700.00 Lakhs (Mixed Tender type), Time for Completion : 12 months. Note:**For full details log on to the website **https://www.tirumala.org**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.350),Date: 08.01.2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Notice No.: CE/BSL/BR/EOI/01/2026
Bhakra Beas management Board, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and established Firms/ companies/agencies meeting the criteria as detailed on BBMB website: **www.bbmb.gov.in** for shortlisting to participate in Tenders for **"Desilting work of Balancing Reservoir, BBMB Sundernagar (H.P.)"** For further details regarding location of work, scope of work and its Time schedule for completion etc., please visit the BBMB website. Interested parties may submit their EOI with requisite details as per format / details provided in the website **up to 3:00 PM** on dt. **28/01/2026** through Registered post/ Hand delivery in a sealed envelope super scribing the EOI reference no. CE/BSL/BR/EOI/01/2026 and Applicant name/Address on the envelope to:- **Sr. Executive Engineer. BR SC & PD Division BBMB Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (H.P.)** The detailed EOI may be seen on BBMB Website **www.bbmb.gov.in .**
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(An autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India)
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P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248 006 (Uttarakhand)
विज्ञप्ति संख्या 20 / उप महानिदेशक (प्रशासन) / निदेशक–व0अ0सं0, देहरादून व निदेशक–उ0क0व0अ0सं0, जबलपुर / 2026–भा0वा0अ0शि0प0
Advt. No. 20/ DDG(Admin.)/ Dir-FRI & Dir-TFRI/2026-ICFRE
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1. उप महानिदेशक (प्रशासन), भा.वा.अ.शि.प., देहरादून – 7वें वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 15 के वेतनमान में
2. निदेशक, वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, देहरादून – 7वें वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 15 के वेतनमान में
3. निदेशक, उष्णकटिबंधीय वन अनुसंधान संस्थान, जबलपुर – 7वें वेतन आयोग के वेतन स्तर 15 के वेतनमान में

उपरोक्त पद हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी भा0वा0अ0शि0प0 की वेबसाइट **http://www.icfre.org** में दिये गये विस्तृत विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते है। आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि **16.02.2026** है।
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2. Director, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun – Pay level 15 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix
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The interested candidates may apply for the above said post as per detailed advertisement available at ICFRE website **http://www.icfre.org**. The last date of receipt of applications is **16.02.2026.**
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DHAKA

Dhaka suspends visa service in India, seeks U.S. visa bond relief

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ANI

Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday said it has asked its key missions in India, including at New Delhi, to suspend visa services over security concerns. Foreign Affairs Adviser M. Touhid Hossain said that Bangladesh has also sought reversal of a recently imposed visa bond requirement by the United States. PTI

BEIRUT

Lebanese military concludes first phase of disarming Hezbollah

AFP

Lebanon's military said on Thursday it had concluded the first phase of a plan to fully deploy across southern Lebanon and disarm non-state groups, notably Hezbollah. Israel said the development was encouraging but "far from sufficient," and its Foreign Ministry said the group still has dozens of compounds. AP

GAZA CITY

Israeli attacks kill seven, including four children: Gaza civil defence

REUTERS

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks in the Palestinian territory on Thursday killed seven people, including four children, despite a ceasefire that has largely halted the fighting. Four people including three children were killed when a drone struck a tent sheltering displaced people in southern Gaza, it said. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. Senate to vote on reining in Trump on action in Venezuela

GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

The U.S. Senate is due to consider a resolution on Thursday that would block President Donald Trump from taking further military action against Venezuela without congressional authorisation, and backers said the measure could pass in a close vote. Mr. Trump's party holds a 53-47-seat majority in the Senate. REUTERS

U.S. govt. unveils plans to control Venezuela's oil sales 'indefinitely'

Energy Dept. says it has begun marketing Venezuelan crude globally; Trump claimed that 30-50 million barrels of oil would be transported to U.S., adding that South American nation will use funds from sales to purchase only U.S.-made products

Stanly Johny

The U.S. Department of Energy said on Wednesday it has begun marketing Venezuelan crude in the global market and plans to control the sales of the South American country's oil "indefinitely", a day after President Donald Trump claimed that Caracas would "turn over" up to 50 million barrels of oil to the United States.

"We have engaged the world's leading commodity marketers and key banks to execute and provide financial support for these crude oil and crude products sales," it said in a fact sheet.

The U.S. attacked Venezuela on January 3 and captured Nicolas Maduro, who now faces narcoterrorism charges in the U.S. AP

The U.S. attacked Venezuela on January 3 and captured its President Nicolas Maduro, who is currently in the U.S. facing charges of narcoterrorism. Mr. Trump claimed on Tuesday that 30 to 50 million barrels of Venezuelan oil would be taken by storage ships, and brought directly to unloading docks in the U.S. He said he has authorised Energy Secretary Chris Wright to execute the plan.

According to the fact sheet, Mr. Wright and the Department of Energy are "working with the Interim Venezuelan Authorities and private industry to execute this deal".

It said proceeds from the sale of Venezuelan crude oil and oil products would initially be kept in U.S.-controlled accounts before being disbursed "for the benefit of the American people and the Venezuelan people at the discretion of the U.S. government".

"These oil sales begin immediately with the anticipated sale of approximately 30-50 million barrels. They will continue indefinitely," added the Department.

In a social media post on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said Venezuela will purchase "only American made products" with the money the country receives from oils sales by the U.S. "These purchases will include American Agricultural Products, and American Made Medicines, Medical Devices, and Equipment to improve Venezuela's Electric Grid and Energy Facilities. In other words, Venezuela is committing to doing business with the United States of America as their principal partner - A wise choice," wrote Mr. Trump.

India-Europe ties growing, can bring stability to global politics: Jaishankar

Sriram Lakshman

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's first official visit for 2026 began in Europe, with a visit to Paris and Luxembourg, against the backdrop of major shifts in global politics including the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by the U.S. and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. In Paris, the Minister met his French, German and Polish counterparts for the India-Weimar Triangle meeting. Mr. Jaishankar said he chose Europe to kickstart the year because India-Europe ties were growing and because the two sides could bring stability to the international economy and global politics.

Deepening relations: S. Jaishankar during the first India-Weimar format meeting in Paris on Wednesday. ANI

"Why did I come to Europe? I think it was a very conscious choice. It was a choice which reflected our belief that this relationship with Europe is really poised to grow, grow to the next level," he said at a joint press conference in Paris on Wednesday, with his Weimar Triangle counterparts.

"I think we can bring more stability, both into the international economy and global politics, and that really is why I'm here," he said.

India's relationship with the EU and with Europe had the most room to grow, among all its major relationships, Mr. Jaishankar said. The discussions in Paris included India sharing perspectives on challenges in the Indo-Pacific and on the Ukraine conflict, he said on X.

The European Union and India are working to announce a 'Free Trade' Agreement (FTA) during the visit of EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa to India for Republic Day later this month. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is in Brussels on a two-day visit (January 8-9) for discussions with his EU counterpart, Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič. German Chancellor Frederik Merz is due in Ahmedabad and Bengaluru next week while French President Emmanuel Macron is due in New Delhi next month for the India AI Impact Summit.

Mr. Jaishankar also held bilateral discussions with France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot.

'Build bridges'

Mr. Barrot emphasised that it was the first time a non-European partner had been invited to the Weimar Triangle meeting format at the Foreign Minister level. The rationale, as per Mr. Barrot, was that France currently held the G7 presidency and India, the presidency of BRICS. He also pointed to the FTA that is approaching finalisation.

"In an increasingly violent world where balances are being questioned, it is important to build bridges between centres of stability, dialogue and responsibility," the French Minister said.

Europe has been reeling from U.S. President Donald Trump's ambiguity about the transatlantic relationship, including his qualified and wavering support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. More recently, following the U.S.'s capture of Mr. Maduro, Mr. Trump has renewed his push to acquire Greenland, an autonomous region of Denmark. This has alarmed European allies of the U.S., many of whom have defended Denmark and Greenland's sovereignty to determine their future.

"There's no such thing as a collective West. There's no such thing as a Global South," the French Foreign Minister said at Wednesday's press conference.

"There are but nations who can dialogue for their mutual interests," he said, adding that countries could come together to defend international law and sovereignty.

Trump withdraws U.S. from UNFCCC, a key climate treaty

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from a bedrock climate treaty was slammed on Thursday by the EU, which vowed to keep tackling the crisis with other nations.

The White House on Wednesday flagged the U.S. exit from 66 global organisations and treaties – roughly half affiliated with the United Nations – it identified as "contrary to the interests of the United States".

Donald Trump

Most notable among them is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty underpinning all major international climate agreements.

The treaty adopted in 1992 is a global pact by nations to cooperate to drive down planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

European Union climate chief Wopke Hoekstra said the UNFCCC "underpins global climate action" and brings nations together in the collective fight against the crisis.

"The decision by the world's largest economy and second-largest emitter to retreat from it is regrettable and unfortunate," Mr. Hoekstra said.

Russian strikes leave one million without water, heat in Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian strikes on Ukraine overnight left more than one million people in the Dnipropetrovsk region without water supplies or heating, a Ukrainian Minister said on Thursday, as temperatures dipped below freezing.

As in previous winters, Russia has intensified its strikes on Ukraine's energy sites, leading to heating and water outages in what Kyiv and its allies call a deliberate strategy to wear down the civilian population.

The large-scale Russian drone attack also knocked out power in the Zaporizhzhia region, leaving thousands without electricity or heating, the state grid operator Ukrenergo said late Wednesday.

Kyiv has responded to the long-running targeting of its energy grid with strikes on Russian oil depots and refineries, seeking to cut off Moscow's vital energy exports.

Sport

Tajinderbir, Arshjot help Punjab pip Chandigarh

BASKETBALL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Punjab prevailed over Chandigarh 81-74 and entered the pre-quarterfinals of the 75th Senior National Basketball championship at the Nehru Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

It was an engrossing contest that saw the lead kept swinging between the neighbours in the first half before Punjab, last year's runner-up, pulled away after the break. Tajinderbir Singh scored 19 points for Punjab.

Punjab seized the early momentum, taking a 13-4 lead, but Gandham Sai Roshan turned things around for Chandigarh, which scored the following 11 points to wrest back the initiative. Punjab skipper Gurwinder Singh then nailed two three-pointers to close out the first quarter 23-21 in his side's favour.

In the next quarter, Chandigarh was more successful in creating chances, as Sanju Gabhiye and Rohan Roy put their side ahead by one point at half-time.

In the third quarter, Arshjot Singh (12) was in the thick of things for Punjab, scoring six points quickly while also creating chances and effecting steals. Though Chandigarh did its best to claw back into the game, Punjab held its nerve.

Other important results:

Women: Group A: Maharashtra 79 (Ankita Kumari 15, Reva Kulkarni 15, Siya Seodhar 15) bt Chhattisgarh 68 (Gulabsha Ali 24, Priya Sharma 14, Ishika Sharma 13, Nisha Kashyap 12); Karnataka 88 (Sruthi Arvind 26, H.M. Bhandhavya 13, Nidhi Umesh 12) bt Delhi 52 (Suman 12, Neha Hooda 11).

Group B: Madhya Pradesh 62 (Manvi Srivastava 17, Kushi Pal Singh 14, Gunvi Agarwal 10) bt West Bengal 47 (Ananya Mandal 13); Tamil Nadu 118 (Shree Varshini 18, S. Krithika 18, Antheya Daisy Evangeline 16, Harithra 14, Ashmitha 14) bt Gujarat 39 (Aahana George 18).

Men: Group A: Rajasthan 83 (Mohammed Ishan 31, Mahaveer 19, Lokendra Singh 15, Ashish Trivedi 12) bt Gujarat 75 (Vinay Kaushik 25, Sahaj Kumar Patel 16, Mirant Italia 11, Yogesh Mer 10); Tamil Nadu 103 (Baladhaneshwar Poiyamozhi 25, Pranav Prince 16, Arvind Kumar 12) bt Services 61 (T.S. Santosh 16, Hemant Sheoran 15).

Group B: Uttar Pradesh 80 (Harsh Dagar 30, Kushal Singh 20, Rishant Kumar 13, Prince Tyagi 11) bt Delhi 77 (Ravi Bhardwaj 19, Issac Thomas 15, M. Sivasakthivel 14, Jeethandar Singh 12, Ayush Sharma 11).

Vital cog: Arshjot played a big part in tilting it Punjab's way. R. RAGU

Anand bounces back with two wins

TATA STEEL CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
KOLKATA

The ageless Viswanathan Anand continues to amaze. The five-time World champion shrugged off a reverse in the fourth round against Arjun Erigaisi to post two wins and share the lead in the rapid section of the Tata Steel Chess India with young compatriot Nihal Sarin.

Anand bounced back brilliantly to beat Hans Niemann and Russia's Volodar Murzin to take his tally to 4.5 points after six rounds.

Nihal has quietly worked his way to the top, scoring three wins from an equal number of games on Thursday to be in the joint lead.

There was a bit of confusion in R. Praggnanandhaa's match against Wesley So in the sixth round as he stopped the clock with a second to spare as he didn't have enough time to queen.

Anand... another good day. DEBASISH BHADURI

After some discussion, the decision to award half-a-point to both was taken.

The results:

Open: Rapid: Men: Fourth round: Aravindh Chithambaram lost to Wei Yi; Viswanathan Anand lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Nihal Sarin bt Hans Niemann; R. Praggnanandhaa bt Volodar Murzin; Wesley So drew with Vidit Gujrathi; **Fifth round:** Niemann lost to Anand; Aravindh lost to So; Vidit drew with Praggnanandhaa; Arjun bt Wei; Murzin lost to Nihal; **Sixth round:** Vidit lost to Nihal; Wei lost to Niemann; Anand bt Murzin; So drew with Praggnanandhaa; Aravindh drew with Arjun.

Women: Fourth round: Aleksandra Goryachkina lost to Katernya Lagno; D. Harika drew with R. Vaishali; Stavroula Tsolkidou bt Vantika Agrawal; Rakshitta Ravi bt Nana Dzagnidze; Carissa Yip drew with Divya Deshmukh; **Fifth round:** Divya lost to Goryachkina; Dzagnidze bt Yip; Vantika bt Rakshitta; Vaishali drew with Tsolkidou; Lagno drew with Harika.

Sixth round: Harika drew with Goryachkina; Tsolkidou lost to Lagno; Rakshitta lost to Vaishali; Yip lost to Vantika; Divya drew with Dzagnidze.

EMOTIONAL GOODBYE

'Glad that we got over the line and I'll cherish it for the rest of my life'

AFP

It was very tough, I was trying to act cool, but the whole Test match I found it really hard to control my emotions. I found it hard to concentrate. I'm glad that we got over the line and it's something I'll cherish for the rest of my life. I can just relax now — Usman Khawaja after playing his final Test.

STAYING CONFIDENT

Smriti plays down Perry's absence, places faith in her young side

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

I don't have her (Ellyse Perry) when I play for India. We knew pre-auction she wouldn't be available. Better to know before the auction. Last season, our injury issues happened after the auction, which was hard to handle. We have an amazing team that's gelling well. Excited to see how they go — RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana.

IMPROVED

I've worked on my power-hitting, says Smriti ahead of WPL

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Smriti Mandhana on batting improvements she wants to make in 2026: I keep trying to play the lap shot. Hope I get better. Reverse sweep is still a work in progress. There is a conscious effort to hit sixes. I've worked on my power-hitting. Hopefully, that clicks. Fancy shots are still far away, but if I can muscle those sixes, I'll be happy.

FREE SPIRIT

I want to contribute as much as possible, reckons Harmanpreet

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Aside from responsibilities as the captain, Mumbai Indians skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is hoping to free herself with the bat in WPL 2026. "This is the only platform where I don't put a lot of pressure on myself. I can execute well here. It's an important tournament and I want to contribute to my team's cause as much as possible".

Australia does the job, wraps up series 4-1

Green and Carey take the host home after lunch on day five at the SCG; England ends up with 342 in its second innings as Bethell makes 154

Sweet success: Australia won the big moments to emerge victor in a hard-fought series. AFP

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Australia won the final Ashes Test against England by five wickets on Thursday to seal a dominant 4-1 victory after a gruelling series, sending the retiring Usman Khawaja out on a high.

The nervy host saw wickets tumble as it chased the 160-run target. However, Cameron Green (22 n.o.) and Alex Carey (16 n.o.) took Australia home after lunch on day five at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Australia lost openers Travis Head (29) and Jake Weatherald (34), along with captain Steve Smith (12) and Khawaja, who made six in his final knock before retirement.

Marnus Labuschagne, dropped on 20, compiled 37 before needlessly running himself out as Australia slipped to 121 for five.

But victory was never seriously in doubt after England was dismissed for 342 on the back of Jacob Bethell's stylish 154.

Weatherald survived a review for caught behind on 16 despite the controversial Snicko technology, which has been unreliable all series, appearing to indicate a faint edge.

An angry Brydon Carse had to be pulled away from complaining to the on-field umpire by Stokes.

England finally got its reward when Head swiped Tongue to Carse at midwicket and Weatherald top-edged the same bowler to Matthew Potts.

Smith was bamboozled by a turning ball from spinner Will Jacks and Khawaja played on before Green and Carey joined hands to get the job done.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 384.
Australia — 1st innings: 567.
England — 2nd innings: Zak Crawley lbw b Starc 1, Ben Duckett b Neser 42, Jacob Bethell c Carey b Starc 154, Joe Root lbw b Boland 6, Harry Brook lbw b Webster 42, Will Jacks c Green b Webster 0, Jamie Smith run out 26, Ben Stokes c Smith b Webster 1, Brydon Carse c Smith b Boland 16, Matthew Potts (not out) 18, Josh Tongue c Labuschagne b Starc 6; Extras (b-9, lb-11, nb-2, w-3, pen-5): 30; Total (in 88.2 overs): 342.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-85, 3-117, 4-219, 5-219, 6-264, 7-267, 8-297, 9-328.
Australia bowling: Starc 18.2-2-72-3, Boland 25-6-46-2, Neser 16-0-55-1, Green 6-0-40-0, Webster 16-1-64-3, Head 4-0-25-0, Labuschagne 3-0-15-0.
Australia — 2nd innings (Target 160): Travis Head c Carse b Tongue 29, Jake Weatherald c Potts b Tongue 34, Marnus Labuschagne run out 37, Steve Smith b Jacks 12, Usman Khawaja b Tongue 6, Alex Carey (not out) 16, Cameron Green (not out) 22; Extras (b-3, lb-1, w-1): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 31.2 overs): 161.
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-71, 3-92, 4-119, 5-121.
England bowling: Carse 8-0-51-0, Tongue 11-0-42-3, Bethell 3-0-16-0, Jacks 6.2-1-42-1, Root 3-1-6-0.
Australia won by five wickets to clinch the five-match series 4-1.
Player-of-the-Match: Head.
Player-of-the-Series: Starc.

Chance for domestic players to steal the spotlight

WPL-4

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

Budding hegemonies are always fun to watch, but the only thing better is a capable spoilsport. While two-time Women's Premier League champion Mumbai Indians is hoping to grab its third title in four years, the fight is far from straightforward.

MI, in its retentions and auction acquisitions, brought together nearly its entire title-winning squad. The big change is in the coaching set-up, with Lisa Keightley and Kristen Beams bolstering the outfit.

All-rounders Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews, alongside Amelia Kerr and Shabnim Ismail, are still MI's sharpest arrows.

One would hope some of the domestic bowlers and big-hitting youngsters like G. Kamalini hog the headlines instead.

The toughest challenger looks to be UP Warriorz. Led by Australian behemoth Meg Lanning, it has an arsenal of big hitters and a versatile bowling attack. In Lanning, Phoebe Litchfield, Kiran Navgire, and Deandra Dottin, there's a healthy mix of firepower and stability.

Delhi Capitals, too, has a steady core in proven match-winners like Jemimah Rodrigues, Marizanne Kapp, Laura Wolvaardt and Shafali Verma. Acquisitions like Chinelle Henry and Lizelle Lee are the perfect garnish to this six-hitting dish. That said, losing Shikha Pandey, Jess Jonassen and Annabel Sutherland will make life hard for the three-time runner-up.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru finds itself in the same boat. Losing Ellyse Perry is a dent in all three departments. The biggest concern for the 2024 champion is the fitness of key bowlers Pooja Vastrakar and Shreyanka Patil, who understandably will also want to balance caution with opportunity in a T20 World Cup year.

Gujarat Giants sports a relatively inexperienced side, packed with power hitters and smart wicket-takers.

Skipper Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney are the pillars of the team. Sophie Devine's all-round brilliance is a great addition, as is Renuka Singh's efficacy in the PowerPlay. But cohesion is key. Individuals have always shown up for the Giants, but a successful campaign requires the team to fire.

An overarching theme for all teams is a persisting dependence on overseas stock, which is antithetical to the purpose of the league.

However, domestic additions across the board - like Giants' Anushka Sharma, DC's Deeya Yadav, RCB's Gautami Naik, and MI's Triveni Vasistha, for example - will want to use their chances to make a statement.

Statistical snapshot

As the fourth chapter of the WPL begins on Friday with the match between MI and RCB, a look at some significant numbers:

0 No player has scored a century so far

1 UPW and RCB have been involved in the only tie (2025 edition). The former won in the Super Over

3 Three players (Issy Wong, Deepti Sharma, Grace Harris) have performed hat-tricks

6 The bowlers with five-fors (Tara Norris, Kim Garth, Marizanne Kapp, Asha Sobhana, Ellyse Perry, Amelia Kerr)

6/15 Perry has the best bowling figures (RCB vs MI, 2024)

41 Hayley Matthews' tally of wickets, the highest in the league

64 Gujarat Giants' total (vs. MI), the lowest

225/5 UPW has made the highest score (vs RCB, 2025)

523 Nat Sciver-Brunt holds the record for most runs in a season (2025)

1027 The Englishwoman, who tops the batting chart, is the only player to cross the 1000-run mark

■ Georgia Voll (99 n.o.) and Sophie Devine (99) jointly hold the record for the highest individual score

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Smriti recalls WC win as RCB takes on MI

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana are diametrically opposite public personalities. Smriti can find the humour in every situation, while the aggressive batter that Harmanpreet is on the field gives way to an astute defender in front of a microphone.

The Indian captain and deputy, the only two victorious skippers in the Women's Premier League, will headline the opening clash of the 2026 chapter between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and defending champion Mumbai Indians at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Friday.

Their endearing camaraderie aside, Smriti promptly said, "It's not a bad thing to win matches against your friends. I hope she does well, but we win."

"The only conversation around the World Cup I had was with the groundsman. I asked him if this is the semifinal wicket or the final wicket," Smriti quipped before adding,

"Whenever we enter the ground, we remember where the last catch was taken and what happened after that. Even if we return after 20 years, it will all be clear for us. Maybe tomorrow, if she (Harmanpreet) is standing at covers, I'll tell my team not to hit there.

"We are not satisfied with just one World Cup. Not just us, other players are also strategising with this mindset. That shows the impact the WPL has had. They are playing with and against overseas players, and the gap that existed before isn't [there] any more."

Today's match

RCB vs MUMBAI INDIANS

Navi Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 7
RCB 3 | MI 4

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Taking a breather: RCB's Shreyanka and Radha relax ahead of the opening match. PTI

India-born Adithya to represent the Kiwis

Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

Born in Vellore, raised in Auckland, tipped as a future torchbearer of New Zealand's spin attack, trained at the Chennai Super Kings Academy and sporting a Tamil tattoo inspired by a Rajinikanth classic – Adithya Ashok is a study in contrasts. Little wonder then that the legspinner is relishing his first tour of India with the Black Caps senior side.

"I am very excited to potentially represent my country and also represent the people who have helped me along my journey," Adithya said on Thursday after New Zealand's first training session ahead of Sunday's ODI series opener against India at the Baroda Cricket Association Stadium.

"I am very excited to play in India. You always hear from players about the atmosphere and the love for the game, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Adithya Ashok. X@BLACKCAPS

Having already earned three limited-overs caps, Adithya is being groomed as a long-term successor to Ish Sodhi. Yet, off the field, it is the tattoo on his right arm that often draws attention – the Tamil phrase *En vazhi thani vazhi*' (My way is a unique way), a famous dialogue from the Rajinikanth film *Padayappa*.

Pipers undone by Royals

HIL - WOMEN

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

SG Pipers seems to have momentarily lost the plot just ahead of the big final against Shrachi Bengal Tigers of the Women's Hockey India League 2025-26. On Thursday, it was humbled by the already-eliminated Ranchi Royals 5-2 in this edition's highest-scoring encounter at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium here.

Royals' Neha Goyal may have earlier lamented the lack of a leading dragflicker, but on Thursday, it took Lucina von der Heyde merely two minutes to step up to the plate. The Argentine did have help from the opponent's rusher, Sunelita Toppo, who erroneously nicked the ball to leave the goalkeeper blind-sided.

Madhuri Kindo would have felt betrayed by her defenders when, eight minutes later, Navneet Kaur made a marauding entry into the circle.

On the prowl: Royals's van der heyde, centre, scored two goals against Pipers. R.V. MOORTHY

She not only managed to find Shileima Chanu Khaidem on the left but also managed to tap the ball in after Sharmila Devi relayed it back to the Pipers' skipper.

The Pipers survived a scare in the second quarter when Hannah Cotter hurled the kitchen sink at the target. It required a diving effort from Bansari Solanki to glove the ball to safety.

The relief was short-lived as the Pipers' defensive line was caught napping once again.

The result: SG Pipers 2 (Navneet 10 & 58) lost to Ranchi Royals 5 (von der Heyde 2-pc & 47-pc, Sangita 14, Cotter 55 & 60).

Lancers make it two in a row

HIL - MEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Vedanta Kalinga Lancers has emerged as one of the most dynamic sides in the Hockey India League. Most importantly, the team has risen to the occasion when pushed into a corner.

All these qualities were on display in its 2-1 win over defending champion Shrachi Bengal Tigers at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Thursday, as Lancers completed its Chennai leg with a perfect record of two wins from two matches.

Tigers, on the other hand, have plenty to introspect after ending the first leg with two losses and just one win.

Lancers took the field without co-captain Sanjay, who is recovering after suffering a hairline fracture to the toe.

Precious strikes: Lancers found the goals through Hendrickx, centre, and Boby Singh in the final quarter. R. RAGU

All three goals came in the last eight minutes of the final quarter. Alexander Hendrickx opened the scoring for Lancers with a neat and powerful drag-flick past the outstretched James Carr.

Within minutes, Tigers found the equaliser when centre-back Tommy Willems' long ball found Sukhjeet Singh on the left of the goalline. The forward squared it across the face of goal, where Affan Yousuf reacted quickly to push it home.

Lancers struck decisively with three minutes to go. Hendrickx's drag-flick was parried by Carr, but Boby Singh Dhami pounced on the rebound to seal the win.

The result: Vedanta Kalinga Lancers 2 (Hendrickx 52-pc, Boby Singh 57-pc) bt Shrachi Bengal Tigers 1 (Affan 56).

INBRIEF

Rathour appointed Sri Lanka batting coach for T20 WC

Former India batting coach Vikram Rathour was on Thursday appointed Sri Lanka's batting coach for the T20 World Cup, beginning on February 7. Rathour will assume charge on January 18 and will remain with the team until March 10.

Sindhu crushes Miyazaki, secures quarterfinal spot

P.V. Sindhu defeatedJapan's Tomoka Miyazaki 21-8, 21-13 to book her spot in the women's quarterfinals but India's challenge ended in the men's singles at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Lee Cheuk Yiu (HKg) 22-20, 21-15; Shi Yu Qi (Chn) bt Ayush Shetty 21-18, 18-21, 21-12; **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Junaidi Arif & Roy King Yap (Mas) 21-18, 21-12; **Women:** P.V. Sindhu bt Tomoka Miyazaki (Jpn) 21-8, 21-13.

Bergs upsets Mensik as Belgium enters semifinals

Zizou Bergs stunned World No. 18 Jakub Mensik and Elise Mertens outplayed Barbora Krejcikova as Belgium beat the Czech Republic 2-0 in the United Cup quarterfinals in Sydney on Thursday to set up a last-four clash with Switzerland. "I'm very happy for myself and for the team," Bergs said.

The results: Belgium bt Czech Republic 2-0 (Zizou Bergs bt Jakub Mensik 6-2, 7-6(4); Barbora Krejcikova lost to Elise Mertens 7-5, 1-6, 5-7).

Barca routs Athletic to reach Spanish Super Cup final

Raphinha netted twice as Barcelona strolled into the Spanish Super Cup final with a dominant 5-0 semifinal win over Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The result: Barcelona 5 (Torres 22, Lopez 30, Bardghji 34, Raphinha 38, 52) bt Athletic Bilbao 0.

Man City and Aston Villa slip up again in title race

Manchester City and Aston Villa missed the chance to make significant inroads into Arsenal's Premier League lead on Wednesday with draws against Brighton and Crystal Palace respectively.

Important results: Premier League: Brentford 3 (Thiago 30, 65, Yarmolyuk 73) bt Sunderland 0; Burnley 2 (Heaven 13-og, Anthony 66) drew with Manchester United 2 (Sesko 50, 60); Crystal Palace 0 drew with Aston Villa 0; Fulham 2 (Jimenez 55, Wilson 81) bt Chelsea 1 (Delap 72); Manchester City 1 (Haaland 41-pen) drew with Brighton 1 (Mitoma 60).

Newcastle 4 (Barnes 36, 90+12, Joelinton 54, Guimaraes 90+1-pen) bt Leeds 3 (Aaronson 32, 79, Calvert-Lewin 45+5-pen).

Serie A: Napoli 2 (McTominay 54, Di Lorenzo 82) drew with Verona 2 (Frese 17, Orban 27-pen).

Parma 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Dimarco 44, Thuram 90+8).

Simranjeet remains at the top in recurve

Simranjeet Kaur won nine out of 11 matches to maintain her top spot in recurve women's category after the round robin stage of the first archery selection trials in Kolkata on Thursday. Simranjeet gathered 12 points from qualification and round robin stages to stay 1.5 points clear of her closest competitor 16-year-old Kumkum Mohod, who won seven round robin matches, involving the top-12 archers. Deepika Kumari, with six wins and 9.5 points, was third. The top-eight will feature in the elimination stage on Friday.

Jagadeesan sets up Tamil Nadu's win

Kerala's quarterfinal hopes go up in smoke as the batters collapse on a slow surface; Madhya Pradesh puts an end to Karnataka's winning streak

HAZARE TROPHY

M.R. Praveen Chandran
AHMEDABAD

The Kerala batters imploded on a challenging surface to lose the must-win Elite Group A match against Tamil Nadu by 77 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the ADSA Railway Ground here on Thursday.

Chasing a target of 295, captain Rohan Kunnummal gave Kerala a bright start as he flayed the attack to race to 73 off 45 balls, studded with seven fours and five sixes. However, Rohan holed out to Sonu Yadav at long on off Sachin Rathi against the run of play.

B. Aparajith, who played fluently for his 35, was stumped smartly by N. Jagadeesan off Rathi.

Vishnu Vinod (35, 31b, 3x4, 2x6) kept Kerala in the hunt, but he pulled a short ball from Mohamed Ali to Sunny Sandhu at long-on and the dismissal started the slide.

Kerala's lower-order batters caved in as the Tamil Nadu spinners maximised the returns from a slow, gripping surface.

Earlier, captain Jagadeesan was in sublime touch and smashed a century (139, 126b, 9x4, 5x6) to set up a challenging total. Jagadeesan added 86 runs with S.R. Athish (33) for the first wicket.

Stellar role: Jagadeesan's sublime hundred took Tamil Nadu to 294. VIJAY SONEJI

But it was the fourth-wicket stand of 73 runs from 40 balls with Bhoopathi Kumar (35, 20b, 2x4, 2x6) that gave impetus to the innings.

However, Eden Apple Tom (six for 46) ran through the lower-order to restrict Tamil Nadu to 294 for eight.

In the end it proved more than enough.

The law of averages caught up with an unbeaten Karnataka, which stumbled to an eight-wicket defeat against Madhya Pradesh.

Karnataka started well with Mayank Agarwal (49) and Devdutt Padikkal (35) adding 77 for the first wicket.

But the run out of Karun Nair (10) by Akshat Raghuwanshi started the collapse as Karnataka slipped from 98 for one to 160 for eight. Vidyadhar Patil's unbeaten 34 gave some respectability to the total.

Openers Yash Dubey (40) and Himanshu Mantri (34) gave Madhya Pradesh a flying start by adding 78 in 12.5 overs.

Venkatesh Iyer (65 n.o., 33b, 4x4, 5x6) and Tripursh Singh (36 n.o., 12b, 3x4, 3x6) biffed 75 runs off 25 balls to wrap up the win in just 23.2 overs and seal a place in the quarterfinals.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY - THURSDAY'S SCORES

Elite: Group A (Ahmedabad): Tamil Nadu 294/8 in 50 overs (N. Jagadeesan 139, Eden Apple Tom 6/46) bt Kerala 217 in 40.2 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 73, Sachin Rathi 4/32, Mohamed Ali 4/36).
Karnataka 207 in 47.4 overs (Mayank Agarwal 49, Shivang Kumar 5/45) lost to Madhya Pradesh 208/3 in 23.2 overs (Yash Dubey 40, Venkatesh Iyer 65 n.o.).
Tripura 320 in 50 overs (Sridam Paul 150, Rajat Dey 102, Sushant Mishra 6/52) bt Jharkhand 123 in 31.1 overs (Manishi 40, Abhijit Sarkar 4/40).
Rajasthan 269/8 in 50 overs (Ramnivas Golada 64, Karan Lamba 108) bt Pondicherry 137 in 26.5 overs (Nitin Pranav 56).
Final placings: Karnataka 7-6-1-24 (0.544); Madhya Pradesh 7-5-2-20 (0.834); Kerala 7-4-3-16 (0.554); Jharkhand 7-4-3-16 (-0.042); Tamil Nadu 7-3-4-12 (0.509); Tripura 7-3-4-12 (0.125); Rajasthan 7-2-5-8 (-0.717); Pondicherry 7-1-6-4 (-1.849). *(Read as Team, Played, Won, Lost, Points, Net Run Rate).*
Group B (Rajkot): Hyderabad 268/9 in 50 overs (Aman Rao 60, Rahul Singh Gahlaut 56, K. Nitesh Reddy 54 n.o.) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 272/7 in 47.5 overs (Auqib Nabi 114 n.o., Vanshaj Sharma 69 n.o.).
Bengal 269 in 45.1 overs (Sudip Gharami 91, Shahbaz Ahmed 43) lost to Uttar Pradesh 272/5 in 42.2 overs (Aryan Juyal 56, Dhruv Jurel 123).
Vidarbha 308/7 in 50 overs (Atharva Taide 80, Dhruv Shorey 40, R. Samarth 94 n.o., Yash Kadam 41) bt Assam 148 in 35 overs (Sumit Ghadigaonkar 80 n.o., Parth Rekhade 4/45).
Baroda 391 in 49.1 overs (Priyanshu Moliya 113, Vishnu Solanki 54, Hardik Pandya 75, Jitesh Sharma 73) bt Chandigarh 242 in 40 overs (Shivam Bhambri 100, Taranpreet Singh 44).
Final placings: Uttar Pradesh 7-7-0-28 (1.737); Vidarbha 7-5-2-20 (1.264); Baroda 7-5-2-20 (0.712); Bengal 7-4-3-16 (0.366); Jammu & Kashmir 7-3-4-12 (-0.426); Hyderabad 7-2-5-8 (0.026); Assam 7-1-6-4 (-1.380); Chandigarh 7-1-6-4 (-2.219).
Group C (Jaipur): Punjab 216 in 45.1 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 57, Ramandeep Singh 72) bt Mumbai 215 in 26.2 overs (Sarfaraz Khan 62, Shreyas Iyer 45, Gurnoor Brar 4/57, Mayank Markande 4/31).
Sikkim 160/6 in 38 overs (Gurinder Singh 65 n.o.) lost to Himachal Pradesh 163/1 in 26.1 overs (Kushal Pal 79 n.o., Innesh Mahajan 73).
Maharashtra 249/7 in 50 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 134 n.o., Vicky Ostwal 53) bt Goa 244/9 in 50 overs (Kashyap Bake 42, Snehal Kauthankar 40, Lalit Yadav 57 n.o., Prashant Solanki 4/56).
Chhattisgarh 265 in 50 overs (Amandeep Khare 62) bt Uttarakhand 258/8 in 50 overs (Kunal Chandela 67, Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 62, J. Suchith 52, Dev Aditya Singh 4/33).
Final placings: Punjab 7-6-1-24 (1.377); Mumbai 7-5-2-20 (0.964); Maharashtra 7-4-3-16 (1.195); Chhattisgarh 7-4-3-16 (0.112); Himachal Pradesh 7-3-4-12 (0.239); Goa 7-3-4-12 (-0.127); Uttarakhand 7-3-4-12 (-0.699); Sikkim 7-0-7-0 (-3.390).
Group D (Bengaluru): Haryana 105 in 25.4 overs lost to Delhi 107/1 in 13.3 overs (Nitish Rana 57 n.o.).
Odisha 251 in 49.5 overs (Biplab Samantray 43, Sambit Baral 50, Ranjan Lenka 56) lost to Railways 254/5 in 45.2 overs (Yuvraj Singh 118 n.o., Zubair Ali Khan 65 n.o.).
Services 165 in 45 overs lost to Andhra 168/5 in 38.1 overs (Maheep Kumar 68 n.o.).
Saurashtra 383/4 in 50 overs (Harvik Desai 82, Vishvaraj Jadeja 112, Ravindra Jadeja 52 n.o., Chirag Jani 43) bt Gujarat 238 in 40 overs (Kshitij Patel 42).
Final placings: Delhi 7-6-1-24 (1.809); Saurashtra 7-5-2-20 (0.857); Haryana 7-4-2-18 (-0.324); Railways 7-4-3-16 (-0.191); Gujarat 7-3-4-12 (0.382); Odisha 7-3-4-12 (-0.109); Andhra 7-2-4-10 (-0.258); Services 7-0-7-0 (-2.177).
The quarterfinal line-up: Jan. 12: Karnataka vs. Mumbai; Uttar Pradesh vs. Saurashtra; **Jan. 13:** Punjab vs. Madhya Pradesh; Delhi vs. Vidarbha.

Tilak to miss the first three T20Is vs NZ

Anish Pathiyil
RAJKOT

Batter Tilak Varma will miss the opening three matches of India's T20I series against New Zealand, beginning on January 21, due to an abdominal issue.

A statement from the BCCI mentioned that the Hyderabad left-hander underwent a minor procedure after complaining of pain.

The 23-year-old player was treated at a private hospital in Rajkot, where he was participating in the Vijay Hazare Trophy group phase.

"Tilak complained of pain in the groin and was rushed to the hospital for scans. The necessary treatment has been provided, but the recovery period could force him to miss three games of the T20I series," revealed a Hyderabad team source.

Tilak took part in two Group B encounters against Chandigarh and Bengal.

New Zealand is touring India for a white-ball series ahead of the T20 World Cup which will begin on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka.

Tilak, who was India's hero in the Asia Cup 2025 final triumph over archrival Pakistan, has been ruled out of the Nagpur, Raipur and Guwahati T20Is against the Kiwis.

His participation in the remaining two games will be decided based on his recovery.

Indian challenge ends in singles as Dhamne, Dhakshineswar lose

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

India's singles hopes at the Dafa News Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 125 were extinguished on Thursday as Manas Dhamne and Dhakshineswar Suresh lost their respective quarterfinals.

Both defeats at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here came at the hands of Frenchmen, with Dhamne beaten by Matteo Martineau 6-4, 7-6(5) and Dhakshineswar by Harold Mayot 7-6(5), 6-2.

Of the two, the teenaged Dhamne put up the better fight. He had his chances in each of the two sets, and even earned two set-points to stretch the contest into a decider. But a bit of inexperience and some impatience cost the youngster.

As early as the second game, Dhamne had two break-points, but fluffed both. The 18-year-old had another opportunity when his opponent was serving at 5-4, but sent a forehand wide.

On set-point, Martineau drew Dhamne into a long rally and it ended with the latter hitting a desperate double-fisted cross-court backhand wide.

Subdued action

In the second stanza, action was subdued until 4-4, but at 15-15, the level lifted. Dhamne allowed Martineau two looks at a break but erased them with an excellent forehand and a giant serve.

After holding to 5-4, Dhamne came within a point of levelling the tie twice, but Martineau got out of jail with an advancing cross-court forehand winner and a neatly executed volley.

In the ensuing tie-break, a nonchalant slapped return at 3-3 earned Dhamne a mini-break. But the local favourite again ceded the advantage by losing both points on his serve.

Martineau fired an ace to earn two match-points, and it was not long before he set-up a last-four meeting with top seed Pedro Martinez.

The Dhakshineswar-Mayot fixture was less eventful and mostly middling.

It did not help that Mayot, because of a left-wrist injury, could only slice his backhand, and the Indian had his right leg tended to by the physio in the middle of the second set.

Mayot will take on sixth seeded Kazakh Timofey Skatov next.

Other results (quarterfinals): Singles: Pedro Martinez (Esp) bt Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Ger) 6-2, 6-0; Timofey Skatov (Kaz) bt Jonas Forejtek (Cze) 6-4, 6-2.
Doubles: Arthur Reymond & Luca Sanchez (Fra) bt Adil Kalyanpur & Saketh Myneni 5-7, 6-4, [10-8]; Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Benjamin Kittay (USA) bt Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-7(3), 6-3, [10-8]; Sriram Balaji & Neil Oberleitner (Aut) bt Petr Bar Biryukov (Rus) & Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-7(6), 6-4, [10-6]; Max Houkes & Niels Visker (Ned) bt Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Niki Poonacha 7-6(2), 7-6(1).

Gutsy display: Dhamne gave a good account of himself in the quarterfinal tie against Martineau. K. MURALI KUMAR

Lovlina, Nikhat have it easy; Poonam pulls off an upset win over Sakshi

BOXING

Uthra Ganesan
GREATER NOIDA

Defending champion and former World junior and youth champion Sakshi Chaudhary suffered a shock defeat to Poonam in the only upset of the tournament so far, losing 1-4 in the 54kg quarterfinals at the Elite men's and women's national boxing championships here on Thursday.

Nikhat Zareen won 5-0 against Lanchenbee Chanu Tongbram of Manipur and Lovlina Borgohain winning by RSC in the first round itself against Mounika Bonthu of Andhra Pradesh.

Among men, Amit Panghal received a walkover into the semifinals, making it a three-way contest for SSCB in the last four.

On the attack... Nikhat, in red, dominated her opponent Lanchenbee. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Top results (quarterfinals): Men: 50kg: Vishwanath (SSCB) bt Sagar (Har) 5-0; Rishi Singh (UP) bt Honey (Del) 5-0; **55kg:** Pawan Bartwal (SSCB) bt Tyson (Aru) 5-0; Jadumani Singh (SSCB) bt Nikhil (Pun) 5-0; Amit Panghal (SSCB) w.o. Ganga (SPSB).

60kg: Sachin (SSCB) bt Karan (UP) 5-0; Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Anmol (RSPB) 4-1; **65kg:** Abhinash Jamwal (HP) bt Abhishek Yadav (UP) 5-0; Amit (RSPB) bt Pavan Kalyan (TS) 5-0. **70kg:** Hitesh Gulia (SSCB) bt Tejaswi (Pun) 5-0; Vivek (Raj) bt Neeraj (Nag) 5-0. **75kg:** Sumit (SSCB) bt Ishmeet (RSPB) 5-0; Deepak Singh (J&K) bt Praveen Kumar (TN) 3-2.

80kg: Ankush (SSCB) bt Nikhil (RSPB) 4-1; Kunal (AIPSCB) bt Aryan (Del) 3-2; Malsawmtluanga (SSCB) bt Kunal (Mah) 5-0. **85kg:** Abhimanyu (RSPB) bt Mayur (Raj) 5-0; Yash (Har) bt Vishwajeet (HP) 5-0; **90kg:** Naman (RSPB) bt Naveen (Har) 5-0; Harsh (Raj) bt Arshdeep (Pun) 5-0; **90+kg:** Narender (SSCB) bt Vishal Gupta (UP) 5-0; Gaurav (SSCB) bt Sagar (RSPB) 3-2.

Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda (APSCB) bt Kashish Mehta (Pun) 5-0; Malika Mor (MP) bt Laxmi (AIPSCB) 5-0. **51kg:** Nikhat Zareen (TS) bt Lanchenbee Chanu Tongbram (Man) 5-0; Kusum Baghel (UP) bt Tanu (SSCB) 3-2; Nitu Ghanghas (Har) bt Deepa Kumari (APSCB) 5-0; **54kg:** Preeti Pawar (SSCB) bt Harmeet Kaur Virk (Pun) 5-0; Poonam (RSPB) bt Sakshi (SSCB) 4-1. **57kg:** Vinka (Har) bt Ankitha Raj (Kar) 5-0; Prachi (RSPB) bt Vinakshi Dhota (HP) 5-0. **60kg:** Ankushita Boro (Asm) bt Niharika Gonella (TS) 5-0; Priya (RSPB) bt Nikita Chand (Utk) 5-0; **65kg:** Neeraj Phogat (Har) bt Shashi Chopra (RSPB) 4-1; Ritu (AIPSCB) bt Priyanka (Chd) 5-0; **70kg:** Arundhati Choudhary (SSCB) bt Lashu Yadav (RSPB) 5-0; Sneh (Har) bt Astha Pahwa (UP) 3-2. **75kg:** Lovlina Borgohain (Asm) bt Mounika Bonthu (AP) RSC-I; Monika (AIPSCB) bt Jigyasa Rajput (MP) 5-0.

80kg: Pooja Rani (Har) bt Sushma (AIPSCB) 5-0; Sneha (UP) P. Anitha (TN) 5-0; **80+kg:** Ritika (Har) bt S. Mathamma (AIPSCB) 4-1; Alfiya Khan (RSPB) bt Shivani Tomar (Del) 5-0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Champion outfit: The Jain University men's badminton team, which won the South Zone inter-university championship in Guntur.

RWF has it easy

RWF FC defeated Sree Gajanana FC 4-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league on Thursday.

The results: RWF bt Sree Gajanana 4-1; Technico drew with BTM 0-0; Income Tax bt Stride FC 3-2.

Memorial held to honour Lokesh Gowda

A memorial was held to honour rally driver Lokesh Gowda, who passed away a couple of weeks ago. He was 57.

Lokesh, a three-time national bike rally champion and winner of many rounds in INRC cars, passed away following an illness.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Malaysia Open: Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 6.30 a.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)